



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-006
Wednesday
9 January 1991

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-006

CONTENTS

9 January 1991

NOTICE TO READERS: As of 2 January 1991, television sourcelines in the DAILY REPORT will reflect how a station identifies itself. In most cases, this change eliminates the "Television Service" designation in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new television sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Mubarak Visits Book Fair, Comments on Gulf	1
Views Baker-Aziz Meeting [MENA]	1
Views War, Israel's Involvement [MENA]	1
Britain's Major Arrives in Cairo 9 Jan [MENA]	3
Meets With Mubarak [MENA]	3
Mubarak Receives UNDP Official, Voices Support [MENA]	3
Mubarak Address Read to Afro-American Conference [MENA]	4
Paper Views Similar Iraqi, Israeli Stances [MENA]	4
Arabs Urged To Address Peace Calls to Saddam [AL-AHRAM 4 Jan]	4
Seminar Condemns Iraqi Practices in Kuwait [Cairo Radio]	5
Papers View Misratah Quadripartite Summit	5
AL-JUMHYRIYAH Report [MENA]	5
AL-AHRAM Report [MENA]	5
Fully Egyptian-Made Aircraft Slated for Tests [AL-AHRAM 1 Jan]	6

Mauritania

Cabinet Views Budget; Approves Pact With Spain [Nouakchott Radio]	6
Malian Minister Meets Taya, Delivers Message [Nouakchott Radio]	7
Taya Receives Credentials of Ambassadors [Nouakchott Radio]	7
Loan Agreement Signed With French Cooperation Fund [Nouakchott Radio]	7

Sudan

Court Releases Palestinians in Hotel Attack Case [SUNA]	7
Minister To Attend Islamic Conference Meeting [SUNA]	7
SPLA's John Garang Gives New Year Message [Radio SPLA]	8

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Government Says Gas Masks Available 9 Jan [WAKH]	12
Kuwaiti Minister Attends Volunteers Graduation [WAKH]	12
Canadian Minister Warns Iraq on Use of Force	12
Holds Manama News Conference [WAKH]	12
Leaves for Saudi Arabia [WAKH]	12

Kuwait

Minister Denies 'Secret Contacts' With Iraqis [London SAHT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 7 Jan]	12
Planning Minister on Hopes for Peaceful Solution [Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP 3 Jan]	13

Higher Consultative Body Meets in Jeddah	[Riyadh TV]	14
Politicians in Bonn Reject Iraq Negotiations	[Hamburg DPA]	14
KUNA Notes Costs of Gulf Crisis for PLO		14

Oman

British Prime Minister Meets With Sultan Qabus		14
On Two-Day Visit	[Muscat TV]	14
Comments on Talks, Departs	[WAKH]	15
'Peace Vessel' Docks at Qabus Port 4 Jan		15
Ibn Khaldoon Boarded	[INA]	15
Ordered To 'Stand Fast'	[INA]	15

Qatar

Qatar Welcomes U.S. Initiative on Dialogue	[WAKH]	15
Amir Receives Message From Turkish President	[WAKH]	16

Saudi Arabia

Iraqi Troop Movements Increase 'Uneasiness'	[Belgrade TANJUG]	16
Defense Minister Denies Iraqi Defection		16
Answers Reporters' Questions	[Riyadh TV]	16
Terms U.S. Reports 'Baseless'	[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]	16
Source Denies Fabricating Rumours Against Iraq	[SPA]	17
UK Prime Minister Major Departs After Talks	[Riyadh TV]	17
Greek Minister Confirms Support Against Iraq	[SPA]	17
Duties of CSFR Anti-Chemical Unit Defined	[Prague Radio]	17
Arabian Militant Clergy Condemn Shiite Treatment	[Tehran Radio]	18

Yemen

Iraqi Trade Minister Departs After 'Constructive' Talks	[Sanaa Radio]	18
---	---------------	----

IRAQ

Reportage on 'Aziz-Baker Talks in Geneva		19
'Aziz Arrives in Geneva	[Baghdad Radio]	19
Ready for 'Positive' Talks	[INA]	19
Meets Swiss Foreign Minister	[INA]	19
Talks Begin	[INA]	19
Second Round of Talks	[INA]	20
Third Round of Talks Scheduled	[INA]	20
Saddam Reorganizes Forces in Occupied Kuwait	[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]	20
Paper Terms Saudi King's Speech 'Nonsense'	[INA]	21
Ramadan Interviewed on Foreign Policy, U.S. Moves	[AL-JUMHURIYAH 5 Jan]	21
Jasim Says Iraq Ready to Destroy Aggression	[Baghdad Radio]	22
AL-QADISIYAH Reviews U.S. Gulf Policy	[INA]	22
Saddam Vows To Settle Objectives in One Battle	[Baghdad Radio]	23
Population Reportedly Calm, Not Afraid of War	[Vienna Radio]	23
Saddam To Host Islamic Conference Meetings 9 Jan	[Baghdad Radio]	23
Further Reportage on Army Day Activities		24
Defense Minister's Cable	[Baghdad Radio]	24
Commanders Congratulate Saddam	[INA]	24
Navy Commander Cables Saddam	[Baghdad Radio]	25
Saddam Addresses Reception	[Baghdad Radio]	25
Army Day Banquet Noted	[Baghdad Radio]	27
Papers Comment on Anniversary	[INA]	27
U.S. Peace Delegation Head Criticizes Blockade	[INA]	28
Arab Peninsula Struggle Front Cables Saddam	[Baghdad Radio]	28
Voice of Free Iraq Urges Army To Fight Saddam		28

Opposition Radio Urges Driving Saddam From Kuwait	[Voice of Free Iraq]	28
Opposition Says Attacks Set for Western Targets	[Voice of Free Iraq]	29

ISRAEL

Foreign Minister Levi Views Gulf Matters		30
Talks With Syria, Jordan Possible	[Jerusalem Radio]	30
Says Saddam Retreat No Solution	[Tel Aviv Radio]	30
Rejects Mubarak Gulf Comments	[Jerusalem Radio]	30
HADASHOT Analyzes Levi's Developing Peace Plan	[4 Jan]	31
Editorial on Saddam Emerging 'a Winner'	[THE JERUSALEM POST 8 Jan]	32
Peres Sees Confrontation Not Compromise in Gulf	[Jerusalem Radio]	33
Gorbachev Says Shamir 'Welcome' in Moscow	[Jerusalem Radio]	33
UN Official Holds News Conference at End of Visit	[Jerusalem TV]	33
Terrorist Groups Warned Against Attacking Israel	[Jerusalem International]	33
Commentary on Jordanian Army 'Defensive' Maneuvers	[HA'ARETZ 6 Jan]	33
Romanian Delegation Arrives, Confers With Levi	[Jerusalem Radio]	34
Direct Flights Agreement Reached With Bulgaria	[HA'ARETZ 6 Jan]	34
IDF Ups Alert; Iraqi Chemical Attack Not Expected	[Jerusalem Radio]	34
Defense Minister Views Gas Masks Distribution	[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 8 Jan]	35
Arab Party Founded in Nazareth, Backs Arab Unity	[HADASHOT 6 Jan]	35
Death, Injuries Noted in Territorial Clashes	[THE JERUSALEM POST 6 Jan]	35
Shots Fired From Jordan; Injuries Reported in Gaza	[Jerusalem Radio]	36
KAKH Activists Shoot at Arab Villagers, Policemen	[Jerusalem Radio]	36
Update on Incidents in Territories 6 Jan	[HADASHOT 7 Jan]	36
Activists in Territories Using Ham Radios	[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 3 Jan]	36
Arab Committee Rejects National Service Proposal	[HA'ARETZ 7 Jan]	37
Ethiopian Jews Continue To Immigrate	[DAVAR 6 Jan]	37

JORDAN

Border Closed to Non-Jordanians From Iraq, Kuwait	[Amman Radio]	38
Badran Comments on Closure	[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]	38
Editorial Views Baker-Aziz Meeting Prospects	[AL-RAY 9 Jan]	38
Reportage on King's Visit to Germany	[cross-reference]	38
Prince Hasan Addresses Officials on Gulf, Law	[Amman TV]	38
Nicaragua's Ortega Arrives En Route to Baghdad	[Amman Radio]	39
UNICEF Aid Arrives; Evacuee Camps To be Built	[Amman TV]	40
Editor on 'Arabiyat-GCC Envoys' Meeting	[AL-RAY 5 Jan]	40
Parliament 'Clarification'	[PETRA-JNA]	41
Stock Exchange Official on Impact of Crisis	[Amman Radio]	41

LEBANON

Karami Cables Bush on Israeli Withdrawal, Gulf	[Beirut Radio]	43
Karami Views Risks of Army Dispatch to South	[Beirut Radio]	43
UN Envoy Supports Deployment	[Beirut Radio]	43
Officials Discuss Gulf, Army With U.S. Envoy	[Beirut Radio]	43
Islamic Resistance Reacts to Lahd's Statements	[Voice of the Oppressed]	43
Chamber Speaker Returns From Damascus Talks	[VOL]	44
UN Evacuating Families From Israel to Cyprus	[Beirut Radio]	44
VOM Reports Arrival of Palestinian Deportees		44
Troops Set Up Barricades, Kill Syrian Soldier	[VOM]	44

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Issues Local Election Decrees	[Kabul Radio]	45
Najibullah Approves Resolutions on Land, Military	[BAKHITAR]	45
Khaliquyar on Joint Projects With India	[Delhi Radio]	45

Bangladesh

Corruption Charges Filed Against Ershad [Dhaka Radio]	45
Pro-Ershad Coup Failed Due to Army Opposition [THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 8 Jan]	46

India

Shekhar Discusses Amending Constitution for Punjab [Delhi Radio]	47
Shekhar Speaks on Planned Industrial Policy [Delhi Radio]	47
House Speaker Ignores Disqualification Ruling [Delhi Radio]	47
Legislators Criticize Commerce Minister Actions [Delhi Radio]	48
Review of Petroleum Allotments Announced [Delhi Radio]	48
Oil Conservation Week Observed From 7 Jan [Delhi Radio]	48
Implementation of Court's Shrine Verdict Urged [Delhi Radio]	48
Twelve Persons 'Massacred' by Gunmen in Punjab [Delhi Radio]	48
Cease-Fire Prospects in Sri Lanka Reviewed [Delhi International]	49
Paper Decries International Apathy Toward Burma [THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 31 Dec]	49

Iran

Iraq's Ibrahim, Vice President Habibi Meet [INA]	50
Iraq To Resist 'Bullying' [IRNA]	50
'Strategic Relations' Stressed [INA]	51
Additional Issues Discussed [IRNA]	51
Iraqi Forces To Withdraw From Remaining Enclaves [Tehran TV]	52
President Receives Indian Foreign Secretary [IRNA]	52
To Supply Oil To India [Delhi Radio]	52
Foreign Affairs Minister Receives Kuwaiti Cleric [Tehran TV]	52
Resumption of Ties With Amman Said 'Under Study' [IRNA]	52
Commentary Urges Iraq To Withdraw From Kuwait [Tehran Radio]	53
Commentary Views U.S. Policy in Gulf Crisis [Tehran Radio]	53
Goods Storage Offered in 'Protected' Ports [Tehran Radio]	54
Deputy Foreign Minister on Visit to France [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 22 Dec]	54
Paper Urges British To End Support For Rushdie [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 30 Dec]	55

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

NCP, UNCP Factions Merge for Elections [AFP]	56
Japanese Envoy Signs Accord on Aid for Elections [Tokyo KYODO]	56

Pakistan

Sharif on Economy, Nuclear Program, Islamic Law [Islamabad Radio]	56
Selected Industries Given to Private Sector [Islamabad Radio]	56
Japan To Provide Debt Relief Grant [Islamabad Radio]	57
Jatoi Alleges Vote 'Rigging' in Elections [Delhi Radio]	57
Delayed Naming of Vacant Envoy Slots Criticized [THE MUSLIM 8 Jan]	57

Sri Lanka

Wijeratne on Formation of Tamil Home Guard Unit [Columbo International]	57
Sincerity of LTTE Cease-Fire Doubted [Columbo International]	57

Egypt

Mubarak Visits Book Fair, Comments on Gulf

Views Baker-'Aziz Meeting

NC0801132891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT
8 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has repeated his warning that the situation in the Gulf is serious and noted that a catastrophe will occur if the situation remains unchanged. He called on the Iraqi leaders to withdraw from Kuwait to spare lives and to save Iraq, the Arabs, and humanity. He voiced hope that the Iraqi president will respond to this last appeal.

In remarks to Egyptian and foreign journalists during his visit to the Cairo International Book Fair today, President Mubarak said he can see no significance in Iraq's delay in withdrawing its forces from Kuwait until the last minute. He asserted that if Iraq intends to maneuver in this matter, it must remember that nothing can be hidden from modern equipment and satellites.

Asked about the possibility that the Iraqi president might be afraid that his forces would be attacked once they began withdrawing, President Mubarak said that the Iraqi president can withdraw his forces today and end the crisis. He announced: We are waiting for tomorrow's meeting in Geneva between the U.S. secretary of state and the Iraqi foreign minister.

To another question on whether Egypt has any proposals regarding a possible understanding between Kuwait and Iraq on regional issues, President Mubarak said: I do not have the authority to speak for Kuwait's ruler. All I can say is that Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait and then it can negotiate. All of us will help. However, the Iraqis have given only one reply since the crisis began, and that is that Kuwait is their territory and they have a historical right to it.

President Mubarak added that the Iraqi president is not leaving room for an effort to be made to resolve the issue and the Iraqis are constantly declaring that Kuwait is Iraq's 19th governorate. Mubarak pointed out that President Saddam sent his deputy 'Izzat Ibrahim and also Taha Yasin Ramadan [to Egypt at the beginning of the crisis] and he explained the seriousness of the situation to them, but to no avail.

Answering another question on a possible meeting between U.S. President George Bush and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, President Mubarak said: This is the first time I have heard of such a thing. If they are going to meet, we encourage this. It is certain that such a meeting cannot take place unless there is talk about a withdrawal.

President Mubarak was then asked about Secretary of State James Baker's statement that he will send a clear

message to Saddam Husayn stressing the need for Iraq's withdrawal and that there is a possibility of holding a meeting between Baker and Saddam in a place other than Iraq. President Mubarak said: This is between Baker and Saddam, if the Baker-'Aziz meeting turns out to be positive. The danger lies in the possibility that the Iraqi president might not be completely informed of the magnitude of the troops arrayed against him, or that he knows about it but remains obstinate.

In response to a question on whether he could give Iraq guarantees if it withdraws from Kuwait, President Mubarak said: I am not concerned with this, so I am not in a position to give guarantees. I am just trying to help, but unfortunately he [Saddam] does not want to listen.

President Mubarak was then asked about the possibility of the Security Council permanent members' issuing a statement preventing a strike against Iraq. He said: I cannot talk about this as long as there is nothing positive. But we could help and appeal if there is something acceptable.

Views War, Israel's Involvement

NC0801173191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT
8 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak hopes that 1991 will be a year of peace in which all hopes will be fulfilled, most of all the hope for resolving the Gulf crisis, imposed on the Arab world by Iraq.

Speaking to a number of Egyptian writers and intellectuals after inaugurating the Cairo Book Fair here today, President Mubarak referred to the grave dangers caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He hoped the current year will be one of reason and that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn will follow reason and logic by deciding to save his people and remove the danger to the Arab nation.

President Mubarak congratulated Egypt's writers and intellectuals on the new year and hoped that all their hopes will be fulfilled. The president then invited a dialogue with the writers and intellectuals and answered their questions.

Writer Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad asked him what the situation will be if the talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz fail and what precautionary measures Egypt will take in the event of an outbreak of military action. The president disclosed that he has recently sent a number of written messages to President Saddam Husayn in an attempt to find a solution, urging him to resort to reason and logic in a bid to find a political solution and warning him of the dangers facing Iraq and the fraternal Iraqi people, as well as the negative effects resulting from the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

The president pointed out that Saddam's answers to these messages and efforts were not positive. He added

that the reply always came through the Iraqi media in a cheap way that is incompatible with the Arab ethics and values.

President Mubarak stressed, in his reply to this question, that Iraq is not a military superpower, but President Saddam has come to believe his own rhetoric. He noted that Iraqi threats to expand the scope of the military confrontation to involve other Arab countries indicate that Saddam has started to believe that Iraq is a military superpower. The president added that this does not and must not alarm us in Egypt, and we as military men must think about what weapons Saddam could [word indistinct] all the Arab world while we precisely know Iraq's true military capability.

President Mubarak emphasized that Saddam Husayn must understand the truth and seriousness of the situation and the magnitude of the international military power in the region. Proceeding from this, there is no room for talk about any precautionary measures, because had there been any expectation that Egyptian territories might be exposed to any danger, we would have declared this clearly and frankly, and we would have taken precautionary measures and announced them to the people. He added: Egypt has its plans to safeguard its security and its soil.

In response to a question about prospects for an agreement between Baker and Tariq Aziz to make Iraq [as received] the policeman of the region, the president said: No one agrees to be a policeman in the region for any foreign power. He noted that Egypt does not agree to be a policeman in the region for any power whatsoever, because Egypt is an independent state whose policies reflect its independence and its own decision. He added: We in the region are dealing with fraternal Arab states, and they are sovereign and independent states that respect their independence. There is no room either for one who allows himself to be a policeman in the region or for one who accepts the policeman's role to be used against him.

Dr. Sa'd-al-Din Ibrahim asked what the situation will be if Israel gets involved as a party to the Gulf crisis. The president said: We do not and will not allow Israel to intervene. I do not believe that Israel will embark on such an action. He stressed: We do not accept Israel's military interference in the Gulf crisis. Should this happen, we will have a different stand.

Author Lutfi al-Khuli asked about the issue of post-crisis change, pointing to reports that world powers are planning the region's post-crisis security and future. The president pointed out that the Egyptian strategy is clear and that it has its own approach to the crisis which takes into consideration various changes. He said there are specialized studies and apparatuses to analyze and assess the situation from various angles. He said Egypt has a clear vision of the post-crisis stage, be it war or peace.

The president asserted that the Egyptian stand is guided by its Arab and pan-Arab principles. Therefore, he said,

the Egyptian decision to stand by Kuwait and legitimacy was guided by its principled stand.

The president was asked about foreign newspaper reports and analyses on Iraqi military power and the possibility of Saddam Husayn's embarking on an uncalculated action by destroying oil fields or the like. The president said Iraqi power and any actions Iraq may take are being overestimated. He remarked that imaginations are running wild about these things.

He said that what is being said today was said before the October war. It was said that the waters of the Suez Canal would be turned into an inferno that no force could cross. The president emphasized that calculations of power in connection with the region's security must take into account Egypt's power, ability, capabilities, and influence. He said the future situation can only be perceived with Egypt at its core and foundation.

Regarding future Arab action, President Mubarak said that joint Arab action has stumbled as a result of the Gulf crisis which Saddam Husayn caused by his occupation of Kuwait. Saddam Husayn has foiled all Arab efforts to achieve effective solidarity and economic cooperation.

President Mubarak said that the Arab people in the Gulf have totally lost their trust in Iraq because of the stands it has taken. He affirmed that Egypt's position and its Arab relationships dictate that it deals and integrates with its brothers in the Arab east and west. Egypt also rejects all attempts at polarization and does not agree that Arab groupings should become axes playing roles that are rejected by the Arab nation. Therefore, Egypt has always emphasized that the Arab Cooperation Council was established for the purpose of economic cooperation and not for military or security purposes.

Addressing President Mubarak, the renowned writer Yusuf Idris said: Developments since the start of the Gulf crisis and Egypt's position during this time make me marvel at your wisdom. I salute you for this principled stand. I seize this opportunity to address an appeal to the members of our Armed Forces in the Gulf to tell them: You are the soldiers of truth. I would like to register here our position as intellectuals and writers toward our soldiers in the Gulf. Yusuf Idris ended his speech by expressing the hope that Egypt will always maintain a position consistent with the dignity of Egypt and the Egyptians.

President Mubarak affirmed that he always keeps in mind Egypt's dignity, prestige, and weight, as well as the dignity of each Egyptian on his own land. He noted in this respect that the Arab nation appreciates the role played by Egypt and the Egyptians. He said that some Egyptians volunteered to fight in the Iraqi Army when it faced difficult situations during its war with Iran. Likewise, the Egyptians were the ones who assumed all the burdens and work in Baghdad and elsewhere, he added. After the war ended, Iraq's answer to this favor by the

Egyptian workers and volunteers was one of treason, assault, and non-payment of their dues.

President Mubarak referred to Egypt's handling of the Gulf crisis during the Cairo summit. He said Egypt's position was one of principle. It was not an act of revenge for the Baghdad summit [in 1979 when Egypt's membership in the Arab League was suspended], as those who have a guilt complex as a result of the mistakes they made against Egypt during the Baghdad summit claim.

Journalist Philip Jallab asked: Why will President Saddam Husayn not be given another six-month respite, provided the embargo continues, to spare the region the dangers of military confrontation? He noted that Saddam is a frenzied ruler and that putting pressure on him through the embargo might force him to withdraw.

Responding to the question, President Mubarak said that such a decision does not rest with Egypt. He added that it is Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries who suffer from the crisis and that they have the freedom to decide. The president remarked, however, that Saddam Husayn gave no room and showed no consideration for Arab and Islamic solutions.

The president noted that Saddam's response to all the efforts made by Egypt and other Arab and international parties has all along been persistent rejection.

President Mubarak said Saddam is now faced with an international stand involving multiple parties. He said the Iraqi position compels all world powers to face up to many threats involving their economies in and outside the region. He stressed that Saddam must realize the multiple interests of the countries he is up against.

President Mubarak noted that the boycott imposed on Iraq is not complete because certain adjacent countries are smuggling different products to Iraq and selling them at high prices. He noted that some people are profiting from this.

Journalist Musa Sabri commented on Philip Jallab's views and touched on the impact of the Gulf crisis on Egypt. He noted that the Egyptian economy, hotels, and tourist agencies were considerably affected. He noted that hotel occupancy rates have not exceeded 15 percent this season, that many tourist agencies have declared bankruptcy, and that Egypt Air revenues have dropped drastically. He remarked that this will be devastating to the Egyptian economy. Addressing Philip Jallab, he asked how Egypt can endure for another six months just to satisfy a crazy, conceited ruler. He exclaimed: Who is that crazy ruler for whom we should endure all this?

Dr. Faraj Fuda touched on terrorism as a national issue, noting that two approaches—at the security and religious levels, through giving a true explanation of the essence of religion—are being adopted in facing it. He noted that the issue is far more serious than that, because it is a political, economic, social, intellectual, and religious issue.

Dr. Fuda asserted that our approach to the issue leaves a lot to be desired. He explained that people are confusing Islam and the Islamic history which reflects Muslims' conduct. He said the media's approach to the issue requires cooperation among the various government apparatus, as well as rectification.

Actress Firdaws 'Abd-al-Hamid and actor Hamdi Ghayth touched on cultural issues pertaining to the state theater. Other authors touched on the encroachment on arable lands and its effects on food supplies. President Mubarak reiterated that the state policy is careful to develop arable lands. He hinted at the existing cooperation between the Agriculture and Interior Ministries to face up to this encroachment on arable lands, because it is a crime against the homeland and future generations.

The president's meeting with authors and intellectuals lasted for almost two and a half hours, during which an open and candid dialogue was conducted and the president responded to all questions.

The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the Consultative Council speaker, the deputy prime ministers for planning and agriculture, a number of ministers, the chairman of the Public Book Authority, technical key figures, and national and party newspapers chief editors and chairmen of the boards.

Britain's Major Arrives in Cairo 9 Jan

NC0901105691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1039 GMT
9 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—British Prime Minister John Major arrived in Cairo at noon today for a short visit to Egypt. This visit is part of Major's tour of the region which began on 7 January.

Meets With Mubarak

NC0901112091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1103 GMT
9 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received British Prime Minister John Major at the Presidential Palace this afternoon. Dr. Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the president's Office for Political Affairs; a number of the British prime minister's advisers; and British Ambassador in Cairo James Adams also attended the meeting.

Mubarak Receives UNDP Official, Voices Support

NC0701120991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1044 GMT
7 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA)—At the presidential office this morning President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Dr. Muhammad 'Abdallah Nur, assistant director of the UN Development Program (UNDP) and regional director of the UN Bureau for Arab States and Europe.

The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, and (Pedro Mercader), resident UNDP representative.

Following the meeting, Dr. Nur said his meeting with the president was excellent. He expressed the hope that 1991 will be a year of peace in the Arab region.

He stated that President Mubarak reiterated his full support for efforts to maintain peace in general and to develop the Arab region in particular.

To a question on the effect of the Gulf crisis on the UNDP activity, Dr. Nur said the crisis has affected the program considerably. He hoped things will not develop into war because development activities cannot be undertaken in a tense atmosphere. He added that the program's activities in areas adjacent to the Gulf region have been obstructed and that some experts taking part in the program have been withdrawn because of the tension. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Address Read to Afro-American Conference

NC0701122291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1028 GMT
7 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has stressed that Africa eagerly hopes that the new international rapprochement will ease the tension and defuse the explosive political and economic problems which have long weighed heavily on the African continent.

In an address read on his behalf by Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, to the Afro-American conference which opened in Cairo today, President Mubarak said he is looking forward to the West and the United States playing a more positive and active role in Africa to help it out of the strangling economic crisis and to protect it against the possible negative effects of East-West rapprochement, which may force African issues to be a secondary priority, reduce world interest in them, or obstruct the flow of assistance to African countries.

President Mubarak urged the international community to make concerted efforts to end the sufferings of Africans so that Africa can once again be the world's window on purity, nature, and beauty as it has always been over the years. [passage omitted]

Paper Views Similar Iraqi, Israeli Stances

NC0501075591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT
4 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM expresses regret at the similarity between the stances and behavior of Israel and Iraq with regard to occupying others' territories by force of arms, their brutal practices in occupied territories, and the eventual objective of their occupations.

In its editorial in the 5 January edition, the paper notes that the law of similarities regrettably places Israel and Iraq in the same basket as their behavior is the same even if the circumstances are different. It adds that their stances on issues of war and peace are similar in being extremely subjective, lacking in objectivity, and being characterized by emotionalism, feelings of arrogance, and by a tone of unjustified obstinacy. Both sides also prefer force to the diplomacy of dialogue.

AL-AHRAM notes that at the time when Iraq uprooted an Arab people in Kuwait, Israel was receiving Soviet Jews in its limited area of land, which has of course been occupied at the expense of an Arab people. In this way, Iraqi and Israeli objectives regrettably coincide in destroying an Arab people, each side in its own way.

The paper says that in Kuwait Saddam practices a brutality similar to Israel's brutality in the occupied territories. It says that perhaps his brutality is even worse. He also rejects UN resolutions, just as Israel does. He threatens as it threatens, and both of them justify this by alleging that they are practicing self-defense against foreign threats.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM points out that despite this similarity in Iraqi and Israeli behavior and objectives, it is Israel which will be the "winner" as a result of Gulf crisis in the long run, while Iraq will be the loser in the very end unless Saddam abandons his stance with acceptance and conviction.

Arabs Urged To Address Peace Calls to Saddam

JN0601115391 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
4 Jan 91 p.3

[Editorial: "Those Crying Against War Option!"]

[Text] How strange are those in the Arab world who cry: No to war, yet do not have the courage to clearly and frankly declare who they think is responsible for pushing the situation to the dangerous brink of a war and destructive confrontation.

Are we the ones who want war, or is it that tyrant who is running the government in Baghdad? He refuses to listen to any advice or heed the voice of reason. He attempts to play on feelings, mislead simple people, distort facts, and mix cards!

Why do these people not address their cries to the face of the Iraqi ruler and call on him to return to right if they are really concerned to spare the region the expected dangers of terrible Saddam?

Can the desire to avert the catastrophe of war be transformed into actual reality by merely raising slogans, or does the national and pan-Arab responsibility call on those who want to confront such serious issues, to be faithful to themselves and to the truth, and have the courage to address the reason behind the catastrophe and the source of evil? Thus, they should call on him to

abandon his policy of intransigence and evasion, and correctly assess the issues, in order for him to wake from the unconsciousness that he is experiencing due to his advisers of evil, who whisper in his ears and portray matters contrary to what they are.

The Arab world is tired of the crooked styles in which some try to cover their true colors by rallying around some slogans from the era of emotional excitement as a cover for the downfall of the old style they pursued in covering their positions on the crisis, in support of aggression, oppression, and violation of legitimacy.

No one believes that they are seeking a solution or peace any more, otherwise they would have stood with right against wrong. Moreover, they would have sought to make the Baghdad ruler feel isolated and alone if he did not show concern for peace, understand the nature of the language now being used, and realize that nothing other than his withdrawal from Kuwait is the only means to avert the catastrophe of war.

Those who today try to appear concerned over the security and safety of the region are the first whom history will hold responsible for what might happen in the future. Due to their vague positions from the beginning, along with their old proposals that raise arguments about the various names of a solution, they encouraged Saddam Husayn to continue and fall into the well of illusions.

If Saddam Husayn is the first person responsible for the invasion catastrophe five months ago and for the catastrophe of the confrontation for which we are counting down, then those who supported him by either being silent about his action, or by justifying his crime, are also responsible. History will have no mercy on them, and our Arab nation will have nothing good to say about them at present or in the future!!

Seminar Condemns Iraqi Practices in Kuwait

NC0701214791 *Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic*
2100 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] The seminar on the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait in light of international law has condemned the Iraqi practices against the Kuwaiti people and regarded these practices as a grave violation of international law, the principles of the UN Charter, and all international conventions. The debate regarded Iraq's occupation and annexation of Kuwait as an aggression as stipulated by the UN General Assembly. The seminar, which concluded its meetings in Cairo this evening, called on the international humanitarian organizations and bodies to immediately intervene to provide the minimum basic guarantees for the protection of the civilians in Kuwait, who are being subjected to the ugliest forms of torture and terrorism.

Papers View Misratah Quadripartite Summit

AL-JUMHYRIYAH Report

NC0501073991 *Cairo MENA in Arabic* 2256 GMT
4 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—AL-JUMHYRIYAH describes the quadripartite meeting which the Libyan Jamahiriya hosted in Misratah yesterday as an important link in the intensive Arab efforts to avert catastrophe in the Gulf before flames spread to the entire Arab region.

In an editorial entitled "Efforts To Avert War" in the 5 January edition, the paper says that for this reason observers and the media accorded particular attention to this summit meeting. It notes that observers asserted that this last-minute summit aimed not only to attain a peaceful solution but also to spare the Iraqi people calamities that they would do well without.

The paper refers to President Husni Mubarak's statement on his return to Cairo from Misratah in which he said that the situation looks very serious and that he has called repeatedly for a peaceful solution and an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. Regrettably, however, Iraq responded with invective, which is a sign of bankruptcy.

The paper supports the president's view that the situation is really very serious as the countdown approaches for the expected international confrontation with the Iraqi regime. It refers to the massed forces of destruction which have assembled in the region as a result of this regime's adventure, or rather, its gamble.

In conclusion, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that a decision in favor of a peaceful settlement is in Iraq's hands, particularly in the wake of the recent U.S. offer for a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Switzerland this week. It says that if Iraq approaches this meeting with sincere intentions, then it will certainly be possible to take a firm step toward a peaceful, just, and honorable peace and that perhaps Saddam Husayn has understood the whole lesson.

AL-AHRAM Report

NC0501071591 *Cairo MENA in Arabic* 2319 GMT
4 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM reports that the Arab quadripartite summit the leaders of Egypt, Libya, Syria, and Sudan held in Misratah, Libya on 3 January discussed five main factors that will determine the outcome of the Gulf crisis amid the current intensive beating of war drums.

In a comprehensive report published in Saturday's edition, the paper says that under the shadow of this impending catastrophe, it was imperative for President Husni Mubarak, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Colonel

Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution; and 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, who also arrived in Misratah, to discuss the implications of this approaching catastrophe and its possible repercussions.

The paper adds that the following points were clear at this meeting:

1. The proposal to hold a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz is the last attempt in the efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully. Other than this, there are no contacts of any kind between the United States and Iraq.
2. Opinion is unanimous that the blow which will be dealt to Iraq if it does not withdraw from Kuwait will be comprehensive and destructive and that it will be made by land, sea, and air forces against Iraq's military and economic capabilities.
3. A partial Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait will not resolve the issue and will not protect Iraq from this coming blow.
4. There is serious apprehension over possible Israeli intervention in the Gulf crisis, particularly as Saddam Husayn's vacuous threat several months ago to incinerate half of Israel has enabled it to obtain \$400 or \$500 million of the most modern weapons and equipment. This was made possible by this vacuous rhetorical threat.
5. The U.S. forces assembled on the Iraqi border have begun to prepare camps to house deserters from the Iraqi Army.

AL-AHRAM concludes its report by saying that in light of these facts, the Arab leaders' meeting in Misratah expressed hope that Saddam Husayn will spare his people and the Arab region the calamities of the impending destructive war by totally withdrawing from Kuwait in compliance with the will of the international community and the call of right, justice, and peace.

The paper adds that this was the basic objective of the Misratah meeting.

Fully Egyptian-Made Aircraft Slated for Tests

JN0401211391 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
1 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] The first 100 percent Egyptian-made aircraft produced by the Arab Organization for Military Industrialization will be tested next month. Production in quantity of the aircraft will take place within the next four months. Its range is 650 km and speed is 120 km [as published]. Currently, the armored vehicle Fahd 30 is also being equipped with means to combat chemical warfare.

This was announced by Lieutenant General Ibrahim al-'Arrabi, head of the organization. He said the aircraft can glide without the use of the engine for three hours.

He added that four of the organization's young engineers participated in the design and production of the plane and they are continuing their work to start on more complicated products.

He said the aircraft is made out of synthetic materials to decrease costs and lessen the weight.

The aircraft is purely Egyptian-made apart from the engine, which we can easily manufacture, but only at the stage of production in quantity and depending on the local and international market production needs. He said we are manufacturing various aircraft in more than one factory. We also have the necessary electronics to develop any aircraft. In addition, we can meet the demands of all fraternal Arab countries for this aircraft.

He said that we are trying to make the price not exceed that of a pickup truck. It is also equipped with military specifications and safety factors and can be used for aerial photography, agricultural spraying, border guard duty, and by oil companies. We also produce a type of this aircraft for amateurs that needs no more than 10 hours of training.

He said that the armored vehicle Fahd 30 has also been produced. It is considered a tank rather than just an armored vehicle. It is characterized by speed like that of a fighter vehicle and can be hooked up to aircraft, helicopters, and armored vehicles. It can carry infantry troops and it costs less than the "tank tower" of Western-made tanks. It can also be equipped with means to combat chemical warfare. In fact, one of them is now being equipped for this purpose. In addition, it can carry a 105 mm cannon.

Mauritania

Cabinet Views Budget; Approves Pact With Spain

AR0801100091 Nouakchott Domestic Service
in French 1430 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Excerpts] The Military Committee for National Salvation met on 30 December 1990 and 2 January 1991 in ordinary session under the chairmanship of Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the committee and head of state.

At this session the military committee examined a certain number of ordinances, the first of which was Ordinance No. 772 on the financial law on the 1991 budget and the appended consolidated investment budget. The budget is balanced at 23,712,894,000 ouguiya. The 1991 public investment program is estimated at 14,896,995 ouguiya, while the general investment budget recorded an increase of about 5.7 percent compared to last year.

With the exception of the National Industrial and Mining Project program which represents 1.044 billion

ougouya, the allocation for the main sectors is as follows: Rural development 27.5 percent; industrial development 14.5 percent; territorial development 30.6 percent; human resources 20.2 percent; public sector and others 7.2 percent. This allocation shows the importance accorded to development in the main sectors in accordance with the consolidation and recovery program. [passage omitted]

The cabinet also approved Draft Ordinance No. 752 authorizing the ratification of the defense cooperation agreement signed on 17 February 1989 between the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Kingdom of Spain. [passage omitted]

Malian Minister Meets Taya, Delivers Message

AB0401172891 Nouakchott Domestic Service
in French 0730 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Yesterday Colonel Maouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation, received Ngolo Traore, Malian minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation. Ahmed Ould Khalifa Ould Jiddou, minister of fisheries and maritime economy, who was acting on behalf of the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, was present at the audience. After the meeting, the Malian envoy made the following statement:

[Begin Traore recording] I had the great honor to meet the Mauritanian president to whom I handed a brotherly and friendly message from President Moussa Traore. As you are aware, Presidents Moussa Traore and Taya, who are friends, regularly exchange views on major regional and subregional matters. The message which I brought was precisely in this connection.

You know that in our subregion, the operations of the Senegal River Development Organization [OMVS] have been disrupted by the regrettable incidents which broke out between Senegal and Mauritania almost two years ago. You also know that President Moussa Traore is very concerned by the situation and has been working hard in conjunction with other institutions including the OAU to restore the normal atmosphere of coexistence and cooperation between Mauritania and Senegal so that our organization, the OMVS, can resume the process of our integrated development. The president gave me advice on the activities of the Ministerial Council on this question. You will recall that the foreign ministers of Mauritania, Senegal, and Mali recently held a meeting on this. The president, therefore, advised me on what ('could be done next). [end recording]

Taya Receives Credentials of Ambassadors

AB0201204091 Nouakchott Domestic Service
in French 0730 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Summary] Colonel Maouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, yesterday received the credentials

of His Excellency Mr. (Fernando Martinez), the new Spanish ambassador, and His Excellency Mr. [first name not given] Coulibaly, the new Malian ambassador to Mauritania.

Loan Agreement Signed With French Cooperation Fund

AB0501164491 Nouakchott Domestic Service
in French 1430 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Summary] Today in Nouakchott Mauritania signed a 26 million French franc nonrefundable subsidy convention with the French Central Fund for Economic Cooperation [CCCE]. This will go toward the urban water sector in Nouakchott, digging wells at other localities, constructing a dam, and other types of development. The minister of planning signed for Mauritania, and the CCCE director initialed for his institution.

Sudan

Court Releases Palestinians in Hotel Attack Case

EA0301125691 Khartoum SUNA in English 1052 GMT
8 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Jan (SUNA)—The major court trying the Palestinians accused of bombing and shooting acts at the Acropole Hotel and the British Community Club [in May 1988] yesterday issued its verdict in the case by ordering release of all the accused persons immediately.

The decree, as the chairman of the court said, was based on [the fact] that the relatives of five British [victims] had ceded their right in qisas (blood vengeance) similar punishment and diya (blood money) but demanded imprisonment of the murderers. The decree also depended on the acceptance of the diya by the parents of two Sudanese victims.

The court has decreed in the light of the above cedings imprisonment of each of the five accused Palestinians: two years for the crime of murder, two years for committing damage, six months for possessing unlicensed weapons, one month for attempting murder at the Acropole Hotel and another month for attempting murder at the British Community Club.

According to the decree all the said punishments must be applied concurrently because the period of punishment had ended on 15th November 1990 while the Palestinians were arrested on 15th May 1988. The court ruled releasing the five Palestinians immediately.

Minister To Attend Islamic Conference Meeting

EA0301130291 Khartoum SUNA in English 1058 GMT
8 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Jan (SUNA)—Sudan will participate in the international Islamic conference scheduled to be held in Baghdad Jan 9th-11th, the daily "AL-QU'W WAT AL-MU'SALLAH" of today reported.

Minister of Guidance and Orientation 'Abdallah Deng Niyal will represent Sudan in the conference.

SPLA's John Garang Gives New Year Message

EA0601111091 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT
4 Jan 91

[SPLA leader John Garang's New Year message; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Fellow Countrymen: You all recall that I had in the past, whenever circumstances permitted, addressed you personally and at the start of every year on the occasion of Christmas and our independence anniversary and the new year. I am glad that it is possible for me to do that on this particular occasion, especially that our beloved Sudan is now facing dangers so grave as to be without precedent in its modern history. It is fitting to mark such occasion by sharing with you our thoughts and hopes for the future and to remind ourselves of the [word indistinct] task which lie ahead.

I seize this opportunity to wish you all a happy new year at the same time hoping that the grim atmosphere of terror unleashed by the fundamentalist Islamic junta in Khartoum has not altogether spoiled the merry and festive mood of Christmas, new year, and independence celebrations. I salute and pay tribute to the masses of our people in the north, south, east, west and center, who courageously resisted colonialism and forced it out of our land. History will not forget their patriotism and the sacrifices they made in the noble struggle for independence.

Fellow countrymen, as we celebrate the 35th anniversary of our independence from Anglo-Egyptian [word indistinct] let us remind ourselves that we have been at war with ourselves for 25 years of these 35 years, and that the Sudan has known some semblance of relative peace for only 10 years of these 35 years. It is incumbent on any Sudanese patriot in a position of decision-making and who has the interests of the Sudan genuinely at heart to pause, sit back, and ask the very simple and basic question of why we have been fighting each other for 25 of 35 years of independence. Something must obviously be fundamentally wrong.

All governments that have held power in Khartoum since independence to date have singularly and abysmally failed to correctly address and solve the twin problems: the issue of nationality and of religion, and without a correct solution to this, the issue of peace, democracy, development, and social justice have all been but given only lip service by whoever happens to be in power in Khartoum. The government in Khartoum has hitherto been driven by sectarianism based on race and/or religion. There are over 150 different nationalities and several religions in the country. The religions are principally Islam, Christianity, and indigenous African divinity. The religions and cultural diversities have been

used not to evolve a new enriched Sudanese particularity, but to maintain corrupt and unjust political power in Khartoum.

It is self-evident except to bigots and chauvinists that any multi-ethnic and multi-religious community in which political power is based on the dominance of one religion or one nationality or the dominance of both cannot avoid discontent and instability. [word indistinct] erupted in open war [word indistinct] and with warfare, destruction, lack of socioeconomic development, and misery. Such has been the sad case of the Sudan. This is why the Sudan has been at war within itself (?for the 25) or 35 years of its independence. And these are the issues that every Sudanese patriot must address boldly and resolve consistently, avoiding all temptations to relax back into religious bigotry or national racist chauvinism.

Compatriots, the SPLM-SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] evolved from this fundamental Sudanese crisis. [passage omitted] It is within these parameters of the new Sudan that we must look for peace, solutions to the war, for there can be no peace solution within the context of the old Sudan characterized by sectarianism and injustice. The establishment of the new Sudan is prerequisite to unity and to peace.

Fellow Sudanese, peace has eluded the Sudan and continues to elude us because those who have taken power in Khartoum have always, and without exception, failed to appreciate the necessity and implications of fundamental change to bring about a new Sudan. [passage omitted]

Compatriots, ever since the regime of 'Umar al-Bashir came to power, it has completely failed to appreciate the necessity for a new Sudanese political dispensation and, as a result, they have completely failed to present the country with a single viable program for peace after having, through their take-over, short-circuited a process that has already been in motion towards peace. Like the other sectarian political parties, the NIF [National Islamic Front] junta saw nothing useful in either the Koka Dam Declaration or the DUP [Democratic Unionist Party]-SPLA Sudanese peace initiative. Indeed, the junta declared that they were going to start from scratch, which they did anyway.

On the fundamental issue of peace, this regime of the NIF thus far (?has fared) worse than any other government in Khartoum. In any conflict situation, it takes more than one side to make peace, unless of course there is a straight military victory by one side. Thus, during the rule of the transitional military council, most Sudanese political forces met with the SPLA in 1986 and [word indistinct] the Koka Dam Declaration. Again, during the rule of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the DUP-SPLA Sudanese peace initiative was signed in 1988. However, despite their loud talk about peace, peace initiatives, and host mediators, 'Umar al-Bashir's NIF junta has to date

signed no peace agreement with the SPLM-SPLA, despite two rounds of talks. Instead, the junta prefers to talk about peace with itself.

As you recall, the junta called a one-sided peace conference last year in Khartoum and engaged in six weeks of fruitless monologue. Indeed, Brigadier 'Umar al-Bashir and his colleagues must have been laboring under the influence of some [word indistinct] delusions of grandeur, for how else could one explain the conduct of a people who hold a conference at which they talked to nobody apart from themselves, come up with what they regard as a hitherto undiscovered magic formula for ending the war, congratulate themselves upon their perceived great success, and reward themselves on their ingenuity by awarding each other meaningless decorations for a fictitious political achievement.

The junta's magic formula is federalism. If the issue was simply federalism, then the SPLA would have been the first political organization to spare General al-Bashir all that unnecessary fuss. I say this because the SPLM-SPLA is on record as advocating a decentralized or federal form of government as the most suitable method of governing a country as vast and diverse as the Sudan. The movement came out unambiguously for a federal system of government as early as 1985. [passage omitted]

Having restated our principal stand in favor of a decentralized form of administration for the future new Sudan, it must be pointed out that our commitment to federalism is predicated on a radical restructuring of the power of the central government to enable all Sudanese people to acquire a meaningful say in the running of their country. This issue is of cardinal importance, and without resolving it, it would be completely meaningless to institute a federal, confederal, or indeed any other form of rule since only the traditional sectarian ruling elite, in this case the NIF, who retained for itself all the power in the center and dispensed to the poor masses in the rural areas essentially hollow structures totally devoid of any power. [sentence as heard]

There is thus an essential linkage between the restructuring of power of the center in Khartoum and the devising of a decentralized system of rule for the regions. This essential linkage was clearly spelled out in my speech of August 1989. [passage omitted]

There should thus be no ambiguity in the minds of serious-minded Sudanese as to where the movement stands on the vital question of the system of rule. The radical restructuring of power of the central government is a (?start) that must be tackled first and foremost before the contemplation of any move to determine the nature of the relationship between the central government and the outlying regions or states.

We in the SPLM-SPLA therefore reject 'Umar al-Bashir's federalism, not as the system of rule (?we can say), but because it is a federalism predicated on sectarianism. The NIF junta calls for an Islamic federal Sudan,

while the SPLM-SPLA and the rest of the Sudanese political forces in the National Democratic Alliance call for a secular federal Sudan.

Fellow citizens, the NIF junta has just announced the unfreezing and immediate implementation of the unpopular September Shari'ah laws, and within the context of their proposed federal system. We condemn this as a deliberate scheme to divert public attention from the issue of peace, on which there can be consensus, to the divisive issue of Shari'ah, on which there can be no consensus, even among natives. The NIF Islamic federal system for the Sudan is unworkable, as it amounts to a system of religious apartheid in a modern world of mobility.

It is ironic that at a time when racial apartheid is being dismantled in South Africa, 'Umar al-Bashir and the NIF are preoccupied with the institutionalisation of religious apartheid in the Sudan. The central issue is to achieve peace, not Shari'ah. And we call on the Sudanese people to resist the NIF attempts to divert the public away from the pursuit of peace, for without peace, the economy will continue to deteriorate and living conditions to fall to unbearable levels.

Compatriots, perhaps 'Umar al-Bashir took power to bring peace through war. Immediately after seizing power, the general begun openly boasting that the days of the SPLM-SPLA as a fighting force were numbered since he was now going to crush the movement in a matter of weeks. He explained away previous military setbacks, which he vowed were going to be a thing of the past under his regime, on what he alleged was the deliberate neglect of the Army by the regime he had toppled. In so doing, Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir unwittingly walked right into the pitfalls of his predecessors. For events have shown that all past attempts to escalate the conflict had only brought more and more SPLA victories.

I need not dwell much on these specifics of our spectacular military gains, which are a matter of public knowledge. Suffice it to say that since 'Umar al-Bashir came to power, the SPLM-SPLA has captured 36 main garrisons and out-stations. [passage omitted]

Western [word indistinct] is more than half the size of the SPLA-controlled territory east of the River Nile. Far from being wiped out, the SPLA, under the very nose of 'Umar al-Bashir, doubled the size of the area it holds and administers. If this is not a military disaster for the regime in Khartoum, then perhaps 'Umar al-Bashir has done much worse than those of Al-Numayri, Siwar al-Dhahab, and Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in military terms.

Compatriots, the NIF junta of 'Umar al-Bashir is a great disaster and a great liability to the Sudanese people. It has failed to bring peace through dialogue. It has also failed to bring peace through war and, indeed, it is incapable of bringing peace any time.

Like in the issue of peace, the regime's foreign policy is a disaster as the Sudan is not at peace with any of its

neighbors and suffers from acute international isolation. Worse still, the NIF has turned the Sudan into an international base for Islamic fundamentalism to destabilize governments in the region, and this can only mean more instability and suffering for the Sudanese people. The human rights record of the regime has been documented as among the worst in the world. The economy is in complete ruin and shambles, and famine threatens to kill tens of thousands of our people, while the NIF junta denies the presence of any famine situation. I take this opportunity to appeal to the international community to come to the urgent assistance with relief to the affected areas in both south and north, and despite the government's intransigence and lack of concern.

Fellow citizens, it is clear that with this pathetic record, the Sudanese people have no need for 'Umar al-Bashir's junta. They must go along with the NIF to the dustbin of history, and I here call upon all the patriotic forces to coordinate at all levels and forms of struggle to quickly remove this dark cloud over our country. In this connection, I here make a strong appeal to the Sudanese Army to actively engage in the peace process without Gen. al-Bashir and his junta, who are bent only on war and the eventual destruction of the Sudanese Army. One of the primary elements in our process of achieving a durable peace in the country has been the need for a separate dialogue between the SPLM-SPLA and the Sudanese Army to run concurrently with the political interaction between the movement and the rest of the political forces. The need to involve the Army in the peace quest is not without its good reasons. It is undeniable that the ongoing war has brought great hardships and misery to the ordinary citizens of the country, but it is equally true to assert that the SPLM-SPLA and the Sudanese Army have borne the brunt of the war.

On the other hand, the Army in Sudan has been, as a matter of objective reality, an integral part of our political life. Therefore, the Army has a vested interest in peace and the stability of any post-war political set-up. [words indistinct] of this interest that the SPLM-SPLA has been consistently calling for this separate dialogue. Initially the idea met with only modest success as it has not been easy for the Sudanese Army to alter its traditional perception of the SPLM-SPLA. Ironically, the coming of 'Umar al-Bashir to power and the persecutions systematically meted out of his regime to members of the Armed Forces, whose views the government dislikes, have prompted a more favorable response to our appeal than had been hitherto possible. I am happy to note that the SPLM-SPLA and the Legitimate Command of the Sudanese Army are partners within the framework of the National Democratic Alliance, the umbrella opposition group that has dedicated itself to the overthrow of the Islamic fundamentalist junta.

Fellow countrymen, as a humanitarian gesture by the SPLM/SPLA, as well as a message of goodwill in respect to the ongoing dialogue between the movement and the Legitimate Army Command which speaks for the Sudanese Army, I have the pleasure to announce today

the decision by the SPLM/SPLA Political Military High Command to release forthwith from [as heard] 10 POW's including one officer from among members of the Sudanese Armed Forces captured in combat.

I take this opportunity to alert once again the members of the Sudanese Armed Forces to the sinister plans of the ruling junta for the imminent liquidation of the Sudanese Armed Forces as an institution in its present form, and its replacement with a fundamentalist army of the NIF. Indeed, this project is already well underway. Officers of the Army still in active service know quite well that the arbitrary purges of their colleagues were a political move to open up the ranks of the Army to young fanatical supporters of the NIF government whose only credentials for the right to don military uniforms are their ideological views. The large-scale recruitment of [word indistinct] into the so-called Popular Defense Forces is calculated to put in place a huge NIF army that would overwhelm the Sudanese Army with its sheer size and render the Army redundant.

We strongly urge officers, NCO's, and men of the Sudanese Army to abandon the junta so as not to connive in their own destruction. We call upon the [word indistinct] to join the process of constructive dialogue now going on between the SPLM-SPLA and their colleagues in the Legitimate Command of the Sudanese Armed Forces, which provides a forum from which the Sudanese Army can talk directly to the movement.

Fellow officers, NCO's, and men in the Sudanese Army, on 21 to 24 December 1990, seven other members of the SPLM-SPLA Political Military High Command met with General Fathi Ahmad Ali, your former commander in chief, General 'Abd al-Rahman Sa'id, your former deputy chief of staff for operations, and Brigadier PSC [passed staff college] Al-Hadi Bushrah, the former deputy director of military intelligence. The meeting took place inside the Sudan in an SPLA- controlled town. Thus, for the first time, elements of the Sudanese Army met with the SPLM-SPLA leadership inside the Sudan and in SPLA-held areas, and nothing happened to them.

They returned in complete satisfaction and happiness for their experience. I consider this as a great step forward in the direction of peace and unity. Among the measures agreed upon with Gen. Fathi, 'Abd al-Rahman Sa'id, and Al-Bushrah is a cease-fire between the SPLM-SPLA and any garrison of the Sudanese Army that joins the Legitimate Command. I here affirm this agreement. With NIF junta, there is no need to be overthrown in Khartoum since it has turned Khartoum into an medieval fortress with tanks still in place since 30 June [1989], then let us cooperate to overthrow the junta from the regions. [sentence as heard] The SPLM-SPLA will assist, including with logistics, any garrison that joins the Legitimate Command. And as a humanitarian gesture and a sign of cooperation between the SPLM-SPLA and the Sudanese Army against the NIF junta, I have already

today declared the release of 10 POW's to go to wherever they choose under international facilitation. [passage omitted]

I assure all citizens in the [words indistinct] center, that the (?political) [words indistinct] of the SPLM-SPLA remains the same, as was made clear in my speech to you last August 1989. We will continue resisting the junta since it is imposing itself and its dictatorial policies on our masses by brutal and naked force. The SPLM-SPLA position remains firm that the problems of our country cannot be solved except through democracy and the participation of all the popular and non-sectarian political forces in the national constitutional conference to reach a solution to the problems facing our country. Those problems have been aggravated since the time the colonialist was pushed out from our country. The present regime has vowed to impose a complete dictatorship monopolized by the forces of bigotry on our country in their futile attempt to monopolize power in

the Sudan. By choosing their line, the junta has left no other option to the other political forces and our popular masses but to struggle against them by all means possible.

Therefore, I seize this opportunity to renew my appeal that it is necessary for all the national democratic forces to unite and agree on a joint program that will unite all the forces of opposition in their struggle against this dictatorial, oppressive and repressive regime.

Fellow countrymen, in conclusion, I repeat my best wishes to you (?while) hoping that the new year [words indistinct] of the 90's will witness a permanent peace and people's democracy in our beloved country; peace that will open up new opportunities for prosperity and usher us into a new united and democratic Sudan. Long live the SPLM-SPLA! Long live the struggle of the Sudanese people! Victory is certain!

Bahrain

Government Says Gas Masks Available 9 Jan

NC0801163991 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Manama, Jan 8 (WAKH)—Gas masks will be available in Bahrain's markets from tomorrow.

A spokesman for the Interior Ministry said in a statement published today all the imported gas masks have been tested by the Civil Defence Directorate to make sure they are in good condition.

The spokesman said the masks might be necessary in the unlikely event of a chemical attack on the island.

He said in the event of such an attack, citizens and residents should take shelter indoors and ensure that air from the outside is prevented from entering.

He said that in the next few days warning sirens would be tested.

He said people would be told in advance what to do when the sirens are tested.

Kuwaiti Minister Attends Volunteers Graduation

NC0901130691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Manama, 9 Jan (WAKH)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah and Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Khalifah, deputy commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Forces, attended a ceremony here today to mark the graduation of the first group of Kuwaiti volunteers. [passage omitted]

Addressing the volunteers, the Kuwaiti defense minister expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the State of Bahrain for its firm stand in defense of justice and for its support of Kuwaiti legitimacy under the leadership of His Highness Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and his government. He stressed that the day of liberation is imminent.

Staff Maj. Gen. Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Khalifah, Bahrain's defense minister and deputy commander in chief, expressed his pride in and admiration for the preparedness, great enthusiasm, and high morale of the Kuwaiti volunteers. [passage omitted]

Canadian Minister Warns Iraq on Use of Force

Holds Manama News Conference

NC0501123891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1005 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Manama, 5 Jan (WAKH)—Canada has warned Iraq that if it does not withdraw its forces from Kuwait by 15 January, force will be used to implement

the recent UN Security Council resolution calling for the use of all necessary means to liberate Kuwait. The international forces deployed in the Gulf are completely ready to implement that resolution, stated Mary Collins, Canadian associate minister of national defense, at a news conference here today.

Collins welcomed the meeting expected to be held on 9 January between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

Collins said that the announcement of that meeting may suggest the possibility of a peaceful solution, but warned that "the clock is ticking." She said: If Iraqi President Saddam Husayn does not withdraw his forces from Kuwait, I believe that force will be used.

Collins said that there are possibilities that we should pursue to obtain a peaceful solution. At the same time, we should understand that, if that solution does not materialize, other measures will be used. Therefore, our forces are ready to use force after 15 January. This must be made clear to the Iraq president. He should understand that we are completely ready in this regard.

The Canadian official said that the concerned countries should seek a full withdrawal. Talks or negotiations concerning other points of dispute can then be held under the auspices of those international organizations who specialize in resolving disputes among countries. This, and not the invasion of other countries, is the best way to resolve differences, she said. [passage omitted]

Leaves for Saudi Arabia

NC0501160591 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Manama, Jan 5 (WAKH)—Canadian Associate Minister of National Defence Mary Collins left Manama for Riyadh today after a visit to Bahrain as part of a regional tour.

During her visit, the Canadian minister held talks with Bahraini officials on the current developments in the region and issues of mutual concern.

She was seen off by Bahraini Defence Minister and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Force Major General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah and Canadian Ambassador to Bahrain Lawrence T. Dickenson.

Kuwait

Minister Denies 'Secret Contacts' With Iraqis

PM0801160191 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 7 Jan 91 p 2

[Nasir al-Khalidi report: "Minister al-Hassawi Says: War Unavoidable If Iraqi Regime's Intransigence Continues," formerly Kuwait SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI]

[Text] Cairo—Fahd al-Hassawi, [Kuwaiti] minister of state for municipal affairs, has denied the existence of any secret contacts between the Kuwaiti Government and the Iraqi regime on the crisis resulting from the occupation of Kuwait. He pointed out that what was reported in that regard is baseless and that such contacts are absolutely nonexistent.

Al-Hassawi emphasized that his country's government "will not negotiate with officials from the Iraqi regime except after the implementation of all the Security Council resolutions, from unconditional withdrawal from all Kuwaiti territory to the restoration of the legitimate sovereignty under His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir, and His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, the heir apparent."

Minister al-Hassawi pointed out that the losses resulting from the mass destruction caused by the Iraqis in Kuwait, including plunder, looting, and the burning of the infrastructure, "exceed 20 billion Kuwaiti dinars."

He added that "officials at the Municipal Affairs Ministry are currently assessing all the losses of amenities and the authorities belonging to the municipality with a view to preparing a comprehensive and complete study for the rebuilding process after liberation."

The municipal affairs minister emphasized that the Kuwaiti Government and the Kuwaiti people reject recourse to violence and war as a means for liberation, "but if the Iraqi regime insists on its intransigence and refusal to respond to the international resolutions issued by the Security Council, then war is unavoidable."

Al-Hassawi pointed out that "war would lead to the mass destruction of Iraq." It was the Kuwaiti Government that started to make a move to stop the rapid deterioration of the crisis, but Iraqi intransigence has pushed the crisis to that level.

Minister al-Hassawi added that "we, as officials and as Kuwaiti people whose territory has been encroached on and occupied, hope that Iraq will submit to the voice of right, logic, and reason and withdraw from Kuwait before 15 January—the deadline specified by the UN Security Council."

Planning Minister on Hopes for Peaceful Solution

AU0501211391 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP
in Hungarian 3 Jan 91 pp 1, 2

["F.Gy."-signed interview with Kuwaiti Planning Minister Sulayman al-Mutaww'a; on the telephone from Taif, Saudi Arabia, date not given: "Maybe Mr. Husayn Will Understand"—first paragraph is MAGYAR HIRLAP introduction]

[Text] MAGYAR HIRLAP spoke on the telephone to a member of the Kuwaiti Government, who talked about his hopes. It is not the United States who decides, but the international community. Peace is more important than

war, and we hope that the dictator also understands this. Dictators, however, do not listen to the people, as Hungary knows from enough years of experience—these were some of the opinions voiced by Sulayman al-Mutaww'a.

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] Mr. Al-Mutaww'a, we are nearing the 15 January deadline. What will happen next?

[Al-Mutaww'a] We hope that the Iraqi regime will understand and accept the appeal of the international community, and that it will agree to a peaceful settlement of the aggression. We hope that Iraq will accept the resolution of the United Nations Security Council.

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] Are you going to fight?

[Al-Mutaww'a] I only said that I hoped Saddam Husayn would withdraw from Kuwait. I did not say that we would (immediately) start fighting.

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] Nevertheless, what plans do you have?

[Al-Mutaww'a] We hope that current efforts—whether they be undertaken by the United States, by the EEC, or at the current Cairo meeting—will convince Saddam Husayn that peace is more important than war...., that peace is not only in the interest of Arab countries but also in the interest of the world. We hope that Saddam will understand. We hope....

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] What will happen if he fails to understand?

[Al-Mutaww'a] There will be war—war is war, whether it be in the Gulf, in Europe, or in Latin America. War is death and thousands of refugees. We will have to expect refugees, for example, from now on. We want peace, but we are prepared for war. The U.S. leadership and European leaderships are also ready for war. At this point, and until 15 January, all our efforts are going to be aimed at preventing war and the catastrophe that a war would entail.

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] Time is running out, and Saddam Husayn is not giving in....

[Al-Mutaww'a] We hope that after the European meeting on Friday, 4 January, Saddam Husayn will also begin to understand that it is not enough just to stand in front of television cameras and oppose war. Maybe he will take a word of advice. Nobody wants war, not even Saddam Husayn's people. In dictatorships—and I believe you have quite enough experience in this area—dictators do not even listen to their own people.

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] Will 1991 be the year of war?

[Al-Mutaww'a] I do not think that the decision lies in the hands of the Kuwaiti Government. The decision will be made by the Security Council and by the countries who voted for the inviolability of borders. The responsibility does not merely belong to the United States, to Great

Britain, or to Egypt or Morocco. The responsibility belongs to all the 26 countries whose armies are present in the area. If there is no other way, then they will be the ones to make the right decision.

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] Clearly, if Saddam Husayn fails to give in, the right decision will be war.

Higher Consultative Body Meets in Jeddah

LD0901093191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1941 GMT 8 Jan 91

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Message"]

[Text] Engineer 'Abd al-Rahman Khalid al-Ghinaym, the secretary general of the Kuwaiti people's conference, stated the following: The higher consultative body began its meetings in Jeddah in the course of its second session on Monday evening the 21st of Jamad al-Thani 1411, corresponding to 7 January 1991.

The meetings will continue for two days. It is known that this body includes a group of Kuwaiti figures who are experts, have great influence, and are specialists in their field. They offer assistance to his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, provide ideas and outlooks, and advise on various issues and questions to bolster the steadfastness of the Kuwaiti people, protect the citizens, and provide reconstruction, information, and various other services in an effort to find the best way to tackle these issues and problems in a spirit of responsibility and complete awareness, in view of the events through which our beloved country Kuwait is going and in an effort to provide a better future for liberated Kuwait.

A committee called the Coordination Committee stems from the higher consultative body. Its task is to continuously follow up and study all issues which might be raised during the meeting of the higher consultative body, or whatever might be put before it, and this is done after practical study.

The following subjects will be discussed at the meetings of the higher consultative body. They include steps taken to implement the recommendations of the people's conference in the fields of steadfastness, liberation, reconstruction, and general recommendations; the results of the visits by the popular delegations, which visited about 100 states; the political developments that are linked to the continuing occupation of Kuwait by the aggressor Iraqi regimes; and the persistent efforts at various levels to end the occupation.

We hope that the meetings of the higher consultative body will be concluded by laying out suitable programs and plans for liberation, which is the objective of every Kuwaiti citizen. We pray to God to guide us to what is good for our country. Glory and victory to Kuwait.

Politicians in Bonn Reject Iraq Negotiations

LD0901125291 Hamburg DPA in German 1156 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—Kuwaiti politicians, speaking in Bonn on Wednesday, rejected negotiations with Iraq as long as their country is occupied. They also warned against giving head of state Saddam Husayn an extension of the deadline for withdrawal from Kuwait, and called upon the Western states for concerted action.

"If the UN resolutions (for the withdrawal from Kuwait by 15th January) are not fully implemented, this will be a catastrophe for the whole world," said Jasim al-Khurafi, ex-finance minister and parliamentarian, in reference to the meeting between Secretary of State James Baker (USA) and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz (Iraq) in Geneva. Saddam would then only consolidate the annexation of Kuwait and intensify his efforts to divide world opinion.

Speaking to the press, al-Khurafi and Deputies ('Ali al-Radwan) and ('Ali al-Ghanim) called basically for a peaceful solution, but not at any cost: "A war or a military action could be the lesser of two evils," said al-Khurafi. The three politicians said that after a withdrawal by Iraq from Kuwait, a settlement of many problems in the Gulf could be striven for within the framework of the United Nations or the Arab League. "But you cannot negotiate with a gun at your head."

KUNA Notes Costs of Gulf Crisis for PLO

LD0501150691 London KUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Tunis, 5 Jan (KUNA)—The PLO decided to close some of its offices in Tunisia as part of the austerity policy it was forced to adopt after the eruption of the crisis involving Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. Today's edition of AL-SABAH, published here, said the PLO instructed various offices and missions abroad to reduce their staff numbers. The PLO is facing severe financial difficulties after its financial aid from the Gulf countries stopped due to its support for the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and after the stoppage of financial transfers from the Palestinian community in Kuwait because of the Iraqi aggression and because many of the members of that community left for Jordan, which also imposed a heavy economic burden on that country. PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat recently admitted that PLO and Palestinian losses exceeded \$10 billion. The PLO was forced to reduce its budget by 30 percent and has already closed a number of its offices and recalled some of its [words indistinct] abroad.

Oman

British Prime Minister Meets With Sultan Qabus

On Two-Day Visit

NC0801193091 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id held a closed bilateral round of talks in his office in Bayt al-Barakah

this evening with British Prime Minister John Major. They discussed the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and issues of common interest on the Arab and international levels. They also discussed the current developments in the Gulf region and the efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis.

British Prime Minister John Major and the delegation accompanying him arrived this evening on a two-day official visit to the Sultanate. He was welcomed on arrival at the airport by His Highness Thuwayni Bin-Shihab Al Sa'id, the personal representative of the sultan; Minister of Information 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Muhammad al-Rawwas; His Highness Haytham Bin-Tariq Al Sa'id, Foreign Ministry undersecretary for political affairs; and the British ambassador to the Sultanate.

Comments on Talks, Departs

NC0901085291 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0815 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Muscat, 9 Jan (WAKH)—British Prime Minister John Major left Muscat this morning following a two-day official visit to Oman. During the visit, Major met with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id to discuss recent Gulf developments.

The British prime minister was seen off by Thuwayni Bin-Shihab, the sultan of Oman's personal representative, and other Omani officials.

In a predeparture statement, John Major said that his talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, which focused on the current Gulf crisis and its implications, were positive and fruitful.

The British prime minister expressed profound appreciation for the strong historical relations between the Omani and British Governments and peoples. He pointed out that these relations grow stronger daily.

He added: Our talks also centered on the current efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis as well as regional security arrangements in the postcrisis period.

Major said he hopes that today's talks between Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will produce positive results which will lead to an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

'Peace Vessel' Docks at Qabus Port 4 Jan

Ibn Khaldoon Boarded

JN0401141391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT
4 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA)—INA has learned that the peace vessel Ibn Khaldoon docked at Qabus Port today.

A dispatch received by INA this afternoon said the vessel Ibn Khaldoon was accorded a grand reception, in which the Iraqi ambassador, embassy staff, and Arab ambassadors in Muscat took part.

The dispatch added that the Iraqi ambassador and embassy staff boarded the vessel to ask about the conditions of the women and children peace messengers who were subjected to attack and intimidation by the U.S. and Atlantic troops.

Ordered To 'Stand Fast'

JN0401155791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT
4 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA)—Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah has said that instructions were issued to the captain of the peace vessel Ibn Khaldoon, which docked at Qabus Port today, to stand fast, refuse to unload the ship's cargo, and sail with the cargo to the Port of Umm Qasr in the valiant city of Basrah.

In a statement to INA, the minister said the captain was asked to take advantage of the stay in Qabus Port to supply the vessel with water, food, and medicine and to treat the women and children peace messengers.

The transport and communications minister highly praised the courageous stand taken by the peace messengers and Ibn Khaldoon captain and crew in the face of the acts of aggression and intimidation to which they were subjected by the U.S. and Atlantic troops in an attempt to stop them from fulfilling their humanitarian mission.

Qatar

Qatar Welcomes U.S. Initiative on Dialogue

NC0601123691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1025 GMT
6 Jan 91

[Text] Doha, 6 Jan (WAKH)—Qatar has welcomed the new American initiative for a meeting between the foreign ministers of the United States and Iraq in Geneva on 9 January.

In a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, a responsible source at the Qatari Foreign Ministry has expressed the hope that this meeting will lead to a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis in line with the Arab and Islamic resolutions and the Security Council resolutions calling for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of its legitimate government under its amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The source recalled Qatar's welcome of U.S. President George Bush's 1 December proposal for a dialogue with Iraq that would lead to implementing the international community's resolutions to save the Gulf region and the entire world from the scourge of a destructive war.

Amir Receives Message From Turkish President*NC0601125991 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1153 GMT 6 Jan 91*

[Text] Doha, 6 Jan (WAKH)—Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad al Thani has received a written message from Turkish President Turgut Ozal. The message was conveyed to Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir during his meeting this morning with the Turkish president's envoy Dr. Akmal-al-Din Ihsanoglu, [name as received] who is currently visiting Doha.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY reported that the message deals with ways to boost and to develop bilateral relations and with the latest developments in the region.

Saudi Arabia**Iraqi Troop Movements Increase 'Uneasiness'***LD0801183191 B-lgrade TANJUG in English 1749 GMT 8 Jan 91*

[Text] Riyadh, January 8 (TANJUG)—Iraq has redeployed its troops, stepping up the number of troops on the western front towards Saudi Arabia with a 20,000-strong elite force, according to reliable Saudi sources.

News of the new Iraqi troops on the border with Saudi Arabia are an added factor for Riyadh's growing uneasiness.

The Saudi Government has completed its war plan which includes the special protection of its oilfields, because of possible Iraqi sabotage. Ghawar, the world's largest oilfield is under special security measures.

Saudi Arabia has great expectations for a possible compromise at tomorrow's meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva.

One version of a possible compromise, discussed in Riyadh today, is that Baker and 'Aziz agree to Iraq's partial withdrawal from Kuwait and leaving complete withdrawal to later negotiations. In this way the U.N. Security Council January 15 deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait could be avoided.

A compromise of this sort would be satisfactory to the Saudis, but not to Kuwait. The Kuwaiti Government in exile with its seat in al-Ta'if, claims that any solution other than Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, is unacceptable to Kuwait.

Defense Minister Denies Iraqi Defection**Answers Reporters' Questions***LD0801203791 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jan 91*

[Excerpts] [Announcer] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, has categorically denied that

Iraqi aircraft have defected to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This came in His Royal Highness's replies to press questions after attending a graduation ceremony at King Faysal Air Academy.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Unidentified reporter] Your Royal Highness: regarding the defection of the Iraqi pilots—this is of course a strong slap at the Iraqi regime and [words indistinct] Saddam Husayn. Your Royal Highness, are you going to grant them political asylum and will you benefit from them?

[Prince Sultan] First of all, this is all lies. The report is groundless, and no aircraft have defected. The entire report was fabricated. As this is a military matter, you should resort to the Armed Forces, command and military information and seek the truth from the Ministry of Information and the Saudi Press Agency. At any rate, we are certain that we are a nation which abides by right and justice. We ask [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Prince Sultan] The future is bright, thanks be to God. As you know, when the door to volunteering and enlisting in the Army was opened, hundreds of thousands of Saudi youth—and not only youth, but people who were 70 years old and even children eight years old—volunteered. This indicates the true Islamic national sentiment. The Armed Forces proceed in the correct way for building on the basis of technology and science. Its foundation is the service of religion, first of all, and then the service of this noble people. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] I am from AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT. There has been much talk about the creation of a new defense system in the region, and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] defense ministers have demanded the establishment of this system. Can we know the features of this system, and is it possible for foreign forces to be present in Kuwait, for instance, after the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces?

[Prince Sultan] The security system continues. As you know, the GCC Charter confirms the existence of security cooperation among the states of the Gulf, and the Arab League Charter and the Joint Arab Defense Treaty confirm that there should be Arab solidarity in the shadow of Arab security. Our present circumstances dictate that there should be a change in words and statements until the affliction is lifted [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Terms U.S. Reports 'Baseless'*JN0801162491 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Jan 91*

[Text] Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz has categorically denied that Iraqi soldiers defected with six Iraqi helicopters to Saudi Arabia seeking asylum. He added that the American information in this regard is baseless.

Source Denies Fabricating Rumours Against Iraq

LD0401210591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 4 Jan (SPA)—A responsible source denied the reports published by the Paris AL-MUHARIR newspaper on Wednesday about what it called the Saudi media's fabricated rumors against Iraq.

In a statement to SPA, the source said: The newspaper's allegations are not compatible with the ethics of the Saudi media, which are based on truth, objectivity, and of giving bare facts, and which stem from the Islamic, Arab, and humane values to which the media is committed.

The source added: The newspaper should have addressed these accusations to the Iraqi media organs and mouthpieces which adopted a policy of spreading rumors against Saudi Arabia and the countries which stand against the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

UK Prime Minister Major Departs After Talks

LD0801201391 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] His Excellency the British prime minister [John Major] left the Eastern Region this evening following a visit to the Kingdom during which he met with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard. During his visit to the kingdom he also met his highness the amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

He was seen off on his departure from Al-Dhahran International Airport by Prince Fahd Bin-Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy amir of the Eastern Region, and His Royal Highness Staff Air Brigadier General Turkey Bin-Nasir Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of King 'Abd-al-'Aziz air base in the Eastern Region, Lieutenant General Sir Peter de la Billier, commander of the British forces in the Gulf, Alan Gordon Monro, the British ambassador to the Kingdom, and a number of officials in the region.

Greek Minister Confirms Support Against Iraq

LD0501175491 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1705 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Jan (SPA)—Greek Defense Minister Ioannis Varvitsiotis has affirmed that it is imperative for Saddam Husayn to withdraw from the State of Kuwait if he wants to avoid confrontation with the world. He said: Saddam must think carefully of the situation, otherwise he will destroy his people and his country.

In a statement today, the Greek defense minister affirmed that his country continues to support the implementation of all the UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to Iraq's invasion of the State of Kuwait.

He pointed out that the principles on which Greek policy is founded does not permit anyone to use force to destroy a small country.

In this context, the Greek minister said that the views of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and Greece on the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait are identical, and that Greece has provided military facilities at its airports to the international forces on their way to the Arab Gulf, and that it will provide even more facilities if asked.

The Greek defense minister expressed his hope that the proposed meeting between the U.S. secretary of state and his Iraqi counterpart will result in the complete implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on the crisis.

As regards the member countries of the EC, of which Greece is a member, the Greek defense minister said that the EC member countries have adopted a unified stand since the very first day of the Iraqi invasion, and continue to do so.

He praised the good state of readiness of the Saudi forces in the face of the Iraqi aggression, and said that they are equipped with the best and most sophisticated military hardware. He added: I have also felt that the Saudi soldier is fully ready to face all conditions and eventualities.

Duties of CSFR Anti-Chemical Unit Defined

LD0801210791 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 2030 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] There has recently been speculation about whether the present activity of the Czechoslovak anti-chemical warfare unit in Saudi Arabia in the front line—25 km from the Iraqi border—is in harmony with the original intention of Czechoslovakia to sent a humanitarian unit to the crisis-ridden area.

Defense Minister Lubos Dobrovsky told a CTK correspondent that our unit does not operate at that distance. According to him, one of its echelons is 37 km and another some 45 km from Iraqi territory. It does not operate in the frontline but in the rear of two brigades of the Saudi Arabian Army. The medical echelon, together with the third anti-chemical echelon, is far in the rear, near the King Khalid [military] city.

Lubos Dobrovsky also stressed that the activity of our unit is not of an offensive nature; it aims to protect people's health, and this is in harmony with the humanitarian mission of this unit and thus with the treaty.

Czechoslovak radio is planning and will soon be broadcasting regular daily bulletins for Czechoslovak soldiers in Saudi Arabia, Lubos Dobrovsky stressed.

Arabian Militant Clergy Condemn Shiite Treatment

*LD0801233191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 8 Jan 91*

[Text] The Militant Clergy of the Arabian Peninsula [Saudi Arabia], condemning the assassination of the martyr Sadeq Ganji, the head of the Cultural Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Lahore, Pakistan, issued a warning about the divisive policies of the [Saudi] Wahhabis.

The statement issued by the Militant Clergy of the Arabian Peninsula condemned the daily-increasing restrictions and pressures exerted on the Shiites inside [Saudi] Arabia, such as the closure of the mosques, Husayniyahs [places where Shiite mourning ceremonies for Imam Husayn are held], as well as the detention and torture of religious ulema and the expulsion of Shiites from governmental posts.

Yemen**Iraqi Trade Minister Departs After 'Constructive' Talks**

*JN0701140291 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 7 Jan 91*

[Excerpt] Iraqi Trade Minister Brother Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih left Sanaa this morning following a visit to our country during which he conveyed a message to Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council from his brother Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. He also held talks with a number of officials in the Trade and Supply Ministry and other concerned sides on bilateral relations and means to promote them.

In a statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA', the Iraqi trade minister described these talks as constructive and positive, and that they stem from fraternal ties between the peoples and leaderships in both countries. He praised the Yemeni firm position which is always leading in support of pan-Arab positions, especially with regard to the U.S. invasion, and threats against Iraq and the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Reportage on 'Aziz-Baker Talks in Geneva

'Aziz Arrives in Geneva

JN0901061891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0400 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived in Geneva last night to hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker today.

In a statement to journalists on his arrival at Geneva International Airport, 'Aziz said he is happy to be in Geneva and that he has come with an open mind to hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to avert war in the Gulf.

The foreign minister added that Iraq had made its position clear, will not yield to pressures, and is open to a good exchange of viewpoints about the situation in the region in general. He said: If there is a sincere, good, and serious intention to achieve peace in the entire Middle East region, then we will be ready to respond to this intention. However, if we hear the same talk that has been repeated during the past months, then we will give the appropriate answer.

Ready for 'Positive' Talks

JN0901081991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT
9 Jan 91

[Text] Geneva, 9 Jan (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has stressed that Iraq does not yield to pressures and that it is ready to exchange views on the situation in the entire Middle East region.

INA correspondent in Geneva quoted the foreign minister as telling journalists following his arrival at Geneva Airport last night to meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that if there is a true intention to achieve peace in the entire Middle East region, Iraq is ready to respond to this intention and to deal with it positively.

Tariq 'Aziz told more than 200 journalists at Geneva Airport that it is still too early to comment on his talks with his U.S. counterpart. He said that he has come to Geneva with sincere intentions and an open mind. He also expressed his readiness to hold positive and constructive talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker if he shows the same intention.

Regarding the U.S. Administration's stand, Tariq 'Aziz said: During the past few days, Iraq heard too much of the high-sounding language from the American side. However, Iraq announced its position clearly to the effect that such talk will not lead to positive results.

The foreign minister said that he is in Geneva to hold talks on the same bases Iraq stressed during the past months and that Iraq will give the appropriate answer if these bases are to be adopted.

Tariq 'Aziz was received at the airport by Rene Felber, vice president of the Swiss Confederation and foreign minister [title as received], Barazan al-Tikriti, Iraq's permanent representative at the UN's European headquarters in Geneva, and a number of the Swiss Government members.

On arrival at his place of residence in the Intercontinental Hotel, Tariq 'Aziz told journalists: The war decision is in Bush's hands, not our's.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived at Geneva Airport 35 minutes before Tariq 'Aziz, and refused to make any statement to journalists.

The session of talks between Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and his U.S. counterpart James Baker is scheduled to begin at the Intercontinental Hotel in Geneva at 1030 today. This is the first Iraqi-U.S. meeting on such a level since 2 August.

Meets Swiss Foreign Minister

JN0901082791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0724 GMT
9 Jan 91

[Text] Geneva, 9 Jan (INA)—A short time after his arrival in Geneva last night to meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Rene Felber, vice president of the Swiss Confederation and foreign minister [title as received].

The INA correspondent in Geneva said that during the meeting, which was held at the Intercontinental Hotel where Tariq 'Aziz is staying, bilateral relations and the situation in the Arab region in general were discussed.

Barazan al-Tikriti, Iraq's permanent representative at the UN's European headquarters in Geneva, attended the meeting.

Talks Begin

JN0901125491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1158 GMT
9 Jan 91

[Text] In accordance with the measures approved by the officials of the Iraqi and American missions in Geneva, the Iraqi and American ministers entered the main meeting hall from adjacent waiting halls at the same time through opposite doors, on the basis of equality in dealing among states.

The two ministers approached each other and shook hands. Tariq 'Aziz then presented the members of the Iraqi delegation to his American counterpart James Baker, who shook hands with them all. The members of the American delegation followed the example of the American minister and shook hands with the members of the Iraqi delegation.

The two ministers sat facing each other at a rectangular table flanked by the members of the delegations. There are six members in each delegation as well as the delegation head.

Journalists and photographers were allowed to enter the main meeting hall for five minutes to record remarks and take pictures of both countries' delegations. The two ministers refused to answer several questions from reporters on prospects for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, before the journalists were asked by the security police to leave the hall so that the closed meeting could start.

INA has learned that the Iraqi and American foreign ministers will make statements to journalists after the conclusion of their talks, but no time has been set for the two news conferences.

After his arrival at Geneva Airport last night, Tariq 'Aziz affirmed that Iraq does not bow to pressures and is ready to exchange views on the situation in the Middle East region. He added that if there is a genuine intention to achieve peace in the entire Middle East region, Iraq will be ready to emphasize this intention and deal with it positively.

Second Round of Talks

JN0901152991 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1449 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Geneva, 9 Jan (INA)—The second round of Iraqi-U.S. talks began in Geneva this afternoon.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker headed for the conference room on the ground floor of the Intercontinental Hotel without responding to the questions of the more than 1,500 journalists who converged on the hotel.

Sources from the U.S. delegation refused to speculate on the duration of this round of talks. The first round of talks took two hours and fifteen minutes. However, they expected that the second session would be the last in the Iraqi-U.S. meeting.

These sources also refused to comment on whether the agreement to hold a second round of talks—which was not expected—was a positive sign toward reaching a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. They said this matter would be made clear during the press conference, which is expected to be held by the two foreign ministers this afternoon.

In accordance with the itinerary issued by the U.S. team here, U.S. Secretary of State Baker is scheduled to leave the Swiss city at 1930 Baghdad time.

Third Round of Talks Scheduled

JN0901161691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT
9 Jan 91

[Text] Geneva, 9 Jan (INA)—The second round of U.S.-Iraqi talks was concluded in Geneva this evening, with an agreement to hold a third round of talks within half an hour of the adjournment of the second session.

Saddam Reorganizes Forces in Occupied Kuwait

LD0801210591 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 1927 GMT 8 Jan 91

[By Charles Miller, PRESS ASSOCIATION defense correspondent]

[Text] British and other allied troops will face toughened opposition in a Gulf war following a major reorganisation of Iraqi forces inside occupied Kuwait. The redeployment of key armoured divisions, described by one defence source as "more professional", is to improve Iraq's ability to counter-attack. It is being masterminded by a new team of advisers to President Saddam Husayn following his decision to replace both his Armed Forces chief of staff and his defence minister.

New chief of staff Lieutenant General Husyan Rashid built up a considerable reputation as commander of the elite Republican Guard. And the promotion of hardline Major-General Sa'di Tuma 'Abbas to the job of defence minister is seen as a sign that Iraqi will not compromise over Kuwait.

Saddam continues to pour men and equipment into the occupied emirate and southern Iraq and there is now estimated to be 590,000 men in the region with 4,200 tanks, 3,000 artillery guns and 2,600 armoured personnel carriers. Two echelons of infantry troops dug in behind an obstacle line running along the southern and eastern borders of Kuwait have formed up into a single powerful infantry line. An armoured reserve is positioned in the centre of Kuwait with two smaller offshoots to the south-east and just over Kuwait's western border inside Iraq. The main reserve is positioned in northern Kuwait and southern Iraq.

A defense source warned that the obstacle belt was also being continually strengthened, making it increasingly difficult to breach. However, experts believe Saddam is rapidly approaching the point where he will see Iraq's economy grind to a halt because of the massive call-up of men. His aim is to have 60 divisions under arms, but that will require one in every two adult males between the ages of 18 and 50.

"That is when the economy will grind to a halt," said one expert. "He will, for example, have to take people from the agricultural sector and Iraq is going to lose the ability to run that sector."

Meanwhile vital equipment is being rushed off production lines for use by allied army helicopters in the Gulf.

A new thermal imaging system which allows commanders of Lynx helicopters to attack enemy tanks at night was not due in service until later this year. Now something less than half of the 23 aircraft will have it installed by January 15. New laser target markers are also being acquired for Gazelle observation helicopters so that enemy targets can be "illuminated" and missiles and other weapons guided accurately.

Paper Terms Saudi King's Speech 'Nonsense'

JN0801160391 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0800 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has described the remarks made by Fahd—betrayer of the two holy mosques and king of the female conscripts—while surrounded by invading forces in Hafar al-Batin, as nonsense that reflects cowardice and cruelty.

In an editorial today, the newspaper adds that if this traitor is trying to polish his ugly image and portray himself as being in possession of the war-or-peace decisionmaking, or even vaguely participating in it, such an attempt will fool no one but idiots like himself, of which there are definitely few.

The paper stresses that when the time comes and the great confrontation takes place, the legions of great victory will crush all the concentrations of invaders and burn them with fire that will not be extinguished until all the holy places are liberated and all objectives achieved. Then, the paper adds, the traitors will be without a cover, and the rotten heads will fall off without mercy or pity.

Addressing Fahd, the betrayer of the two holy mosques, the paper says: Wait a little, and you will see who will remain alive among the troops that you brought for aggression against Iraq, and how punishment will be extremely severe for the traitors and plunderers of the nation's wealth and resources.

Ramadan Interviewed on Foreign Policy, U.S. Moves

JN0801165391 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
5 Jan 91 p 4

["Exclusive"]

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has affirmed that Iraq's independent foreign policy and its position on the nation's central causes have been keeping the U.S. Administration awake at night.

In an interview with the Paris-based magazine KUL AL-ARAB to be published next Monday, Ramadan added that the U.S. Administration sees Iraq as an obstacle to the U.S. ambition to lead and dominate the world. Therefore, in the Gulf events the United States has found a chance to step up its hostility to Iraq and involve other states.

Ramadan said: This U.S. behavior is pushing the world toward a big disaster, but we are fully confident that the European and American public opinion, in particular, still has time to decide. It is this public opinion, he said, that can curb the U.S. Administration and define its course, because it is these people, first and last, and not the U.S. Administration, who will bear the consequences of this disaster.

He pointed out that the U.S. Administration has made a very big mistake by relying on pieces of advice from people like Fahd and Husni, and by believing that the state of inaction, deterioration, and despair that has been experienced by the Arab nation over the past two decades is a permanent state, or is inherent in the nature of this nation.

He also affirmed that the U.S. Administration was surprised by the popular move and awakening—a state that differs from the one that prevailed before 2 August, or from the state that existed more than two decades ago.

The first deputy prime minister also said that many people in the world and in the Arab homeland, in particular, who believed one way or another in slogans raised by the U.S. Administration and some European administrations about democracy and human rights, have begun seeing things more clearly.

He added: This battle has proved the falsehood of these people and their slogans about human rights and democracy, whether through their defense of or fight for corrupt family governments that have nothing to do with the minimum factors of democratic rule, through preventing medicine and food from children and 18 million Iraqis, or through their practices against the peace ship.

Taha Yasin Ramadan also believes that the behavior of the American and Atlantic forces toward the peace ship is aimed at terrorizing the Arab masses and preventing them from taking similar steps to break the economic blockade imposed on Iraq. He added: We believe that this behavior will prompt many sectors and organizations of the Arab people, as well as states and peoples friendly to the Arab people, to intensify their efforts to take similar actions and to create a real crisis for the U.S. Administration and its allies.

Ramadan also affirmed that "America and its allies have declared and implemented war since last March, and the war is taking place now." Ramadan also wondered: "How can the United States sense danger while it is thousands of miles away from Iraq? Does it sense danger to its entity, or to its plundering of Arab wealth?" He also affirmed: "We are entitled to defend our land and wealth, and we will fight anyone who tries to keep on plundering this wealth."

Ramadan then stressed: "If direct aggression against Iraq takes place, the whole Arab and Islamic arena without exception will be a battlefield."

Jasim Says Iraq Ready to Destroy Aggression

JN0801185391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, has affirmed the readiness of the Iraqi people and Armed Forces to destroy any U.S. aggression against the dear homeland from Zakho to the sea. During a meeting with several French pilots today, the minister of culture and information said the Iraqi people and Armed Forces will defeat and crush the U.S. and Atlantic forces if they attempt to attack our land and the sovereignty of our country, because the Iraqis are defending all honorable values of the Arab nation and Muslims in the world. He added that leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August 1990 initiative is the only approach to resolving all problems of the region, headed by the Palestine question and the Palestine people's right to the restoration of their usurped rights and termination of their suffering and the Zionist authorities' repressive practices against them in the occupied Arab territories.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim affirmed that Iraq does not fear the U.S. and Atlantic fleets in the sea or the forces deployed on the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]. He said if these forces try to carry out any aggression, they will be defeated through the willpower of the Iraqis and their great leader, President Saddam Husayn. The minister reviewed the background of U.S.-Zionist plotting against Iraq and the unjust economic measures that have been imposed to starve its people and deny them medicine. He said all these practices reflect U.S. arrogance and deviant behavior in antagonizing nations and peoples and imposing hegemony and custodianship on them.

Baron [name indistinct] affirmed that the steadfastness of Iraq and its people in the face of challenges has constituted a blow to U.S. arrogance and the U.S. Administration's policy of extorting peoples.

AL-QADISIYAH Reviews U.S. Gulf Policy

JN0501122691 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0805 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jan (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH stresses that Bush and his small allies who are playing a game will be burned by the steadfastness and determination of the Iraqis, which will turn them into ashes everywhere once the major confrontation in the crucial battle starts. In an article today under the headline "American Policy and Designs on Arab Oil," the paper asserts that America's attempts today on Arab territory to harm Iraq will fail as previous attempts have failed. Bush and his small allies should stop their hostility toward Iraq.

The Iraqi paper says that the U.S. Administration should not make the same mistakes that Britain did. What undermined Britain's power were its evil dreams, which cost it dearly. Bush should know full well that the Americans' expansionist dreams will be buried in Iraq's soil.

The paper says that the basic American policy in the Gulf has been firm and deep-rooted from the ill-omened Roosevelt era up to Bush. This policy reflects economic, political, and social strategic interests. The concept is based on control of oil resources and vital centers in the world and resistance to all national liberation movements demanding independence and liberation from economic subservience.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: America is trying to prevent forces hostile to it and to its allies from controlling the Gulf. It also wants to maintain the flow of oil from the region to America, whose economy depends on Arab oil. An observer of American reaction to the Gulf and the region might feel that America, through a large military buildup, has declared war on Iraq.

The paper notes that America wants to control oil resources in such a way that will make the oil resources needed by the rest of the world come under its hegemony. Thus, America will regain its lost influence by governing all other countries; it will give oil to anyone it wants and deprive anyone it wants. Hence we should say that America's interest lies in maintaining the price of oil. But the question raised now is the following: Why didn't America threaten the rulers of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] in the seventies when OPEC, including Hejaz, threatened to cut the oil supply off?

AL-QADISIYAH adds: Since the historic Arab oil boycott in 1973, there has been repeated talk about the interests of America and its allies in the region. These interests were accurately defined in the statement on the military situation issued by the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff in (?1982). These interests are represented by the uninterrupted flow of oil supplies from the Gulf states to the United States and its allies and the protection of the necessary transport routes to maintain the flow of this oil to North America, Western Europe, and Japan.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: The importance of Gulf oil—the main source of imported energy to seven Western economic systems—is sufficient to dwarf any other interests in the region. And this was noted in the report of the Joint Chiefs of Staff which says: The continued flow of oil directly affects vital political and security ties with NATO and Japan.

The paper says that such interests are reasonable guarantees for preventing a stoppage of the flow, whether temporarily or permanently; ensuring steady prices, the distribution of appropriate opportunities for oil exploration and development among the various Western companies, and technology transfer to enhance the dependence of OPEC states on Western technology; and obtaining rights related to using airspace, establishing bases, and other privileges.

The Iraqi paper notes that the attempt aimed at showing the bounds of the U.S. security policy toward the Gulf faces many problems, however clear and firm the interests may be. Carter said in a statement: Any attempt by any external force to control the Gulf will be viewed as

an attack on the vital interests of the United States. And such an attack will be repulsed by all necessary means, including military force.

AL-QADISIYAH affirms that U.S. policy on Arab oil resources and the region is expansionist and terrorist. It wants to maintain so-called regional security and stability with constant threats, use of military force, and by maintaining a military presence in the Gulf and Arab region.

The paper says we do not forget that America was the first to launch threats against the developing countries when it declared that using oil as a tactic for political pressure alone would prompt America to protect its national security and the security of the world by occupying oil resources. The paper adds that U.S. policy is therefore a continuation of the hostile policy against the Arab nation and Iraq. In light of this policy, America tried to impose a blockade on Iraq and used its international influence to issue false Security Council resolutions to curb Iraq's present military, technological, and leadership capability.

Concluding, AL-QADISIYAH says as the crucial battle approaches, it will increase our strong determination to confront the entire infidelity with all faith. Victory will be achieved because we believe in it.

Saddam Vows To Settle Objectives in One Battle

JN0801213191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
2100 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] His Excellency Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has received a number of commanders and commanding officers.

During the meeting, his excellency the leader president reviewed some aspects of our bright Arab history. He affirmed that our relationship with the nation is not confined to a chronological dimension, but rather a relationship based on a heritage, values, common aspirations, and a common destiny, not to mention the spiritual legacy.

His excellency the leader president added: The Iraqis nowadays, even the non-Ba'thists, believe in unity, the liberation of Palestine, the removal of the injustice inflicted on the Arab nation by the foreign powers, or the injustice inflicted on it due to the ingratitude of some people from among its ranks.

His excellency the president asserted that instead of waging separate battles to achieve each objective of the nation and offer sacrifices for each battle, we will settle all of these objectives in a single battle. In this battle, all the aspirations and objectives of the nation will be settled by eliminating the opposing objectives of the enemies such as fairness, which runs counter to injustice; poverty, which runs counter to riches; nurturing ambitions, which runs counter to isolation; liberation, which

runs counter to the hegemony of the foreigner; the liberation of Palestine, which runs counter to its usurpation; and the recognition of Iraq as a fact, and recognizing its right to choose its own way of life.

His excellency the leader president touched on the hostile plans to weaken Iraq's ability to hold out and construct. He added that the Americans had plans to see it emerge exhausted. However, they and their allies were surprised by seeing it emerge capable and able to initiate development, hold out, and make progress. That is why they planned to weaken it, the president added.

Population Reportedly Calm, Not Afraid of War

AU0901125591 Vienna Domestic Service in German
1100 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Ulrich Tildner report]

[Excerpt] In Iraq people are not aware how big the danger of war really is at present. Thus, little significance is being accorded to the meeting between Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. People trust in the strength of their own army and believe that U.S. President Bush will not realize his threats and order the troops concentrated in the region to attack. Above all, the young generation, trained during the leadership of the Ba'th Party and who have profited from Saddam Husayn's power, remains unimpressed by the threats of the anti-Iraq alliance. Saddam Husayn can and will make politics with the calmness of his subjects. Since no outbreak of a panic or a mass exodus from the capital Baghdad can be expected in the hours before the expiration of the UN deadline on Tuesday [15 January], Husayn will first go all out.

According to leading Iraqi politicians, U.S. President Bush is bluffing with his threats to attack Iraq. It is conceivable that Husayn will announce some kind of symbolic withdrawal of individual units from Kuwait at the last minute. This might primarily affect units that are used to ensure security in the towns of the occupied shaykhdom. Iraq can call them back without weakening the combat strength of the soldiers dug into the trenches along the border with Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Saddam To Host Islamic Conference Meetings 9 Jan

JN0901101891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0930 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Under the patronage of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, the meetings of the international popular Islamic conference will begin in Baghdad today under the banner of the holy Koranic verse: To those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight, because they are wronged; and verily, God is most powerful for their aid.

The convening of this conference, hosted by Baghdad, the fortress of Arabism and Islam, comes at a time when all the forces of infidelity and polytheism are massed,

and in compliance with the desires of the leaders of the Islamic organizations and movements to visit Iraq to express their solidarity with and support for Iraq's efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

Further Reportage on Army Day Activities

Defense Minister's Cable

JN0401172691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] His Excellency Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has received a cable of congratulations from Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Sa'di Tu'mah 'Abbas on the 70th anniversary of the valiant Iraqi Army. Following is the text of the cable:

Your Excellency the leader president, on the anniversary of our valiant Army, it pleases me to extend to you in my own name and on behalf of your zealous men in the Iraqi Armed Forces the sincerest and warmest congratulations, beseeching God Almighty to preserve you as a symbol of the honorable Iraqis and to grant you strength and resolution, for God is always near to answer.

Your Excellency the president, your brave sons, who are this year celebrating their noble day united behind the brave leader to confront aggression, recall the history of their dear Army, which is full of glories that were recorded in its history through great sacrifices, thus, it has always been at the forefront of the struggle of our mujahidin people since its establishment. It is standing today with all its strength, taking the position of the advanced vanguards in the crucial battle, in which God wanted to test His patient and faithful subjects, who heroically defend right, land, and honor until final victory, God willing.

Your Excellency the president, we pledge to you, as loyal men, that we will continue to be swords brandished in the hands of the unique and brave leader, with hearts full of faith, until the aggressors that have occupied the holy mosque and the tomb of the prophet, God's peace and blessings be upon him, depart in response to the logic of right aspired to by Iraq and all good people in the world. This will build the pillars of a lasting peace in the Arab region and guarantee all parties' legitimate rights in accordance with just and comprehensive humanitarian and legal logic.

Your Excellency the president, may God preserve you to be the pride of Iraq and the glorious Arab nation. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Sa'di Tu'mah 'Abbas

Commanders Congratulate Saddam

JN0501180691 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1555 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jan (INA)—Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has received cables of congratulations from a number of military commanders on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Army.

The I Army Corps commander said in his cable: Our celebrations this year on the anniversary of the birth of Iraq's impregnable shield assume deeper and more comprehensive meanings and dimensions. He affirmed that the I Army Corps is fully prepared to confront the forces of tyranny and aggression, which have fallen into the abyss of vice and prevented food and medicine from reaching this great nation's children, elderly, and women.

The cable of the I Army Corps commander also says: Celebrations on this day do not mark a passing anniversary, but the perpetual, militant heritage of this army's great services and heroic deeds, which have greatly contributed to Iraq's current prominent status among the world's countries.

In his cable on the 70th anniversary of the establishment of our brave army, the III Army Corps commander said: Your loyal soldiers in the III Army Corps are standing loftily and proudly under your unique leadership to defend rights and the genuine principles of our glorious Arab nation.

He added: The men of the III Army Corps, who were tested on the battlefield as proud and unequalled knights in the flames of battle, are ready today, after their preparations have been completed, with faithful hearts and reassured souls, believing that victory is for them. They are extremely vigilant and enthusiastic and they are at your service to wage the critical war in defense of great Iraq from Zakho to the sea, and that they will not sheathe their swords before defeating aggression and crushing the aggressors so that the banner of Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn can continue to fly high in order to pass on to generations the legends of great courage, sound wisdom, and continued struggle for the sake of noble principles, rights, and justice that are epitomized by your honorable person.

In his cable, the V Army Corps commander said: The 70th anniversary of our valiant army comes at a time when our Arab nation is undergoing the most critical and climactic stage of its struggle and jihad in defense of its existence and future. He added that the honorable battle will be one of good against evil and of truth against falsehood. This, he said, will be the crucial battle, and welcome are the battles of destiny.

The VII Army Corps commander said in his cable: This great birth of your proud army is an eternal occasion in the history of our glorious Arab nation. While feeling strong, mighty, and confident, we pledge, my lord, to be

the cavaliers when the battle breaks out. Inspired by your determination and command, we will be deadly swords to all forces of evil and vice, God willing. We will teach the enemies of Iraq, the nation, and mankind unforgettable lessons. Our proud Iraq will remain great, strong, high in banner, and triumphant. It will continue to boast of your wise leadership after purging the holy places of the filth of the dissolute hypocrites and traitors.

The cable of the Air Force and Air Defense commander says: While recalling the splendid, heroic deeds of our valiant army, which became the highest example of sacrifice for noble principles, and which carries the sword of truth for the liberation of the entire pan-Arab soil from the filth of the sinister enemies, we feel the splendor of victory and the joy of steadfastness scored by our ideological army under your historic leadership in its firm stand against U.S. imperialism and its dwarfish allies.

The director of the Army Helicopter Gunship Corps said in his cable: On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of our valiant army, the army of heroism, pride, and sacrifice, the army of the crucial battle against the invaders, I send you as you lead the honorable battle, the most exalted words of love and loyalty in my name and on behalf of the army gunship corps personnel. We pledge to be your faithful soldiers in the crucial battle, and we are fully determined under your great leadership to score a splendid victory and crush the armies of evil and falsehood.

Navy Commander Cables Saddam

JN0601185891 Baghdad Domestic Service
in Arabic 1548 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has received more cables of congratulations on the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the brave Iraqi Army. The cable of the Navy commander says: Mr. Leader President, the men of your triumphant Navy, who are standing ready in the revolutionary Arabian Gulf region, greet you on this dear occasion and give you the oath of the proud men who carry the torch of humanity from their honorable forefathers, and swear [words indistinct] will repulse and destroy any vile and treacherous foreign provocation and will burn with their blazing fires any naval vessel that opens fire to test its bad luck and its exposed adventure [words indistinct]. Any adventure or any attempt to desecrate these clean waters will be destroyed [words indistinct] pieces.

Saddam Addresses Reception

JN0701134191 Baghdad Domestic Service
in Arabic 1135 GMT 7 Jan 91

[“Full recording” of address by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn during a reception on the Iraqi Army’s 70th anniversary, on 6 January; place not given]

[Text] Many happy returns. I hope this occasion will always bring well-being and blessings to you, our great people, our dear and honorable nation, and the valiant Armed Forces, with enhanced faith and faithful capability. The power of the faithful is different from the power of Bush or Fahd. The capability of the faithful contains tolerance and loftiness, and is basically aimed at noble ends and is used for noble purposes. It does not include military capability only. Military capability should be one of the factors of faithful capability whose basis is profound faith. It is a faith in what God wants and approves of and faith in truth and the need to renounce and resist falsehood when it wants to dominate truth, or when it wants to become the law of life. God willing, we will see these traits materialized. With God’s help, you will raise the banner of your nation and enhance the position of all wronged people on both Arab and world levels. May God protect you and your army. God willing, your years will be recorded as stars in the clear sky of the nation and as a symbol of truth, faithful capability, and glory.

In Iraq, the army has become the people in the field of military specialization thanks to its depth and guiding vision. This is because the army is not a technical system only, as some armies are, but an extension of the people, as we said, in specialization in terms of spirit, aspirations, life standards, loftiness, and higher principles. It assumes its field as a specialization authorized by the people, just the same as other specializations are authorized in their fields—say medicine, engineering, civil servants in other fields, and also on the level of the societies, unions, and trade associations.

But this specialization has its own characteristics, without which the tasks of this specialization cannot be correctly performed. Among these characteristics is discipline, discipline and obedience that are based on conviction, beginning with the moment of joining the Army, because joining the Army is commensurate with these laws—laws of obedience and discipline for the sake of serving the nation and people. Hence, we find that any group of people is not necessarily capable of promptly becoming militarized, except when it believes in all armed forces trends, and when its character is refined toward developing the required specialization, according to the definition we talked about today. On the other hand, any people can become an army when it abides by those considerations, because armies, as we have said, are the extension of the people into this specialization, and they are necessary for the people and the homeland to be secure and have a protective shield.

The Armed Forces in Iraq have become a symbol for the armed forces of the entire Arab nation. Today in the [Army Day] anniversary speech, we said the Armed Forces in Iraq—not the Iraqi Armed Forces. This is because they are Armed Forces in Iraq, made up of Iraqis, but they belong to the Arab nation as a whole. They serve all the nation’s principles, and are a protective shield for the entire nation. They also constitute a sharp sword at the hands of the nation and its honorable

sons everywhere, on the basis of values that have become well known to the near and the far.

The Armed Forces in Iraq have built a bridge of ties on the basis of the substance of the attributes which, God willing, God has wanted for the army of the Muslims and the Muslim Arabs. When such an attribute becomes a reality and not a mere allegation, the honor that it gives to the one who has the honor of serving with such armed forces is a great honor.

Thank God that this attribute, which we had always hoped would be one of the prominent attributes of our people and one of the distinguishing features of the valiant Iraqi Armed Forces has now become a fait accompli. It is a fait accompli not by virtue of our decision or our recognition, but at a level that extends to the whole nation, and even transcends it through what you hear about the enemies' description of our Armed Forces.

A basic part of the evil that they have brought along from the West to occupy the holy land of the Arabs and Muslims and establish a base of aggression against Iraq is this feeling that a new situation is emerging in Iraq—a new situation that is different from those they are familiar with. Not even the positive situations they have known are anything like this one. This situation transcends the previous ones to embrace what is larger and deeper and what is comprehensive in nature. We will not say that this situation is more comprehensive, just comprehensive; whether at the level of the outlook; whether at the level of determining the flow of life according to an ideological vision based on comprehensiveness and the energetic spirit that is deeply rooted in the nation's heritage—the spirit of freedom and liberation and honorable, just, and fair aspirations; the rejection of all that is false and all the attempts at intimidation and aggression. This new aggression, which has derived its name from the occupation of the holy lands despite its prior knowledge of what they mean in the life of the Arabs and the Muslims, could not have happened had it not been for their [the aggressors'] feeling that they are facing a situation of the kind which they fear, so that this situation might not lead to a broad, deep awakening in the life of the nation; that is, not to make the nation demand its legitimate rights and legitimate status, because it will exercise its legitimate role, whether at the level of the homeland or the human values in which it believes, and which are necessary to render pan-Arab values sound, correct and noble.

In all the battles it has fought, the Arab nation has always deployed only part of its strength, thus facilitating the task of aggressors, who made the most of this fact. When aggressors mobilize strategically, operationally, and psychologically, as well as technically, they take full advantage of the fact that they are pitted against just one country that forms part of a great and large nation. The aggressors realize that the Arab nation has in its heritage an additional dimension, and by taking on the Arabs one at a time, they often manage to defeat us in battle. When

the nation is ill-prepared in terms of intellect and alertness, in most instances it suffers defeat at the hands of opposing forces. This has always been the case whenever the Arab nation has found itself in battle—during, before, and since the 'Abd-al-Nasir era.

But now the situation is vastly different. The main battle may be fought on Iraqi territory, but this is not to say that it will not extend far beyond. The center of military gravity may be Iraq, but Iraq will not be the only theater of operations. Before every mujahid and struggle the battlefield will be the world at large. The battle will not be fought only in its conventional, technical, military dimension. The battle will be fought over every inch, wherever an Arab may be. Even when the bulk of the military presence is in Iraq, this is not to say that this is all the power we can muster. Your capabilities are the sum total of light in the hearts and minds of the faithful, wherever they are.

The elements of preparedness in terms of your continued offering no longer consist of only tangible or visible elements. They consist of tangible, visible elements and invisible, intangible elements. They are deeply rooted in all the great heritage and the great examples of the nation's history, particularly the honorable landmarks in this nation's history. The prospects from all this are not a better life for the Iraqis only, but also a better life for the entire nation. Our battle has been planned on this basis, not only because we want it to achieve this objective in light of the ideological creeds in which you believe and which you know, but because the enemies waged battles against any ray of hope in this nation and any brilliant case the nation experiences only on the basis of these considerations. They always planned their counteroffensives based on this understanding. The nation used to be defeated on its own battlefield, because its battlefield had never been comprehensive and all-encompassing, as it should have been.

From our corner and that of the enemy, the battle now has become a comprehensive battle in terms of its objectives and means in both camps. The good stood to your side, and the bad stood to their side. The poor are with you; not only the poor, but every honest man in the homeland; and this nation is with you, and all the dishonest people are with them. All the exploiters, who, with their families live off the blood of the people after they transform them into pleasures, are with them. The arena, as a natural thing, became broader to accommodate the entire nation in its resurgence and to spread, as we have said, to outside the borders of this nation. All the good people in this world will stand by your side, while all the bad people and the bad qualities that have been produced by this age will stand on their side. Thus, I would like to explain part of the speech I made this morning on this occasion, and say: You will determine a series of aims in this battle. God willing; a series of aims that will change the reality and status of the nation in a deep and comprehensive manner. This is so because it will change what is in the heart, God willing. One of the

reasons why this nation is impaired is the feeling of impotence brought about by a lack of faith, and the lack of battle requisites.

But now, after the requirements of the battle have been provided, God willing, and after faith has been attained on a strong basis in minds and hearts, the victory has come near, God willing. It is near even though its arena complies with the implicit description we have made, where the battle takes place only on Iraqi territory, where the military base has been completed. There will be a comprehensive change in our lives, and the basis of the battle will be in every mind, conscience, and faithful heart.

Defeat will not only be dealt to the unjust people who are amassed on the land of Najaf and Hejaz when they commit aggression against Iraq, but also to injustice, whose pillars will be shaken throughout the world. Then Palestine and Jerusalem will be liberated. The Kaaba and the Prophet's tomb will also be liberated, and all the holy places of the Arabs and Muslims will be liberated, and all the holy places of the faithful everywhere.

So, this is how the battle will be. In the past, the nation entered battles with only mobilization at the front directly involved; now, however, mobilization basically exists in the new human situation and its repercussions [words indistinct]. Mobilization now is not only in Basra, Baghdad, Nineveh, Karbala', al-Najaf, Kuwait, Irbil, or al-Sulaymaniyah, but also in the city of Algiers, in Jordan, and in the mind, heart, and conscience of the Syrian citizen. It exists in al-Mansurah, Port Said, and Cairo, Egypt. It also exists in the westernmost part of the Arab Maghreb, and in the easternmost part of the Arab East, as well as in the heart, conscience, and mind of every citizen. It also exists in the hearts of the faithful and heroic stone-throwers, of the brave Mujahidin, and of the glorious Arab women, who are resisting aggression and the injustice of Zionism with stones. It exists in the conscience and heart of every honorable Muslim and in the conscience and heart of every honorable man—even inside the United States itself. Such mobilization and such preparedness have never taken place in the life of the nation in previous battles. Certainly, this will please Almighty God, and when Almighty God is pleased and the faithful prepare the utmost of their power, victory will be theirs. Victory will be for every [word indistinct]. We do not wait for victory, but deal with it from the first moment of true mobilization to the point where it comes into harmony with faith, noble goals, and honest intentions, and ending with all the results of the mother of battles and the new situation. May God bless you and preserve our people and our nation.

Army Day Banquet Noted

JN0701162591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has hosted a dinner banquet on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the valiant Iraqi Army.

The banquet was attended by the Revolution Command Council members, the National Assembly speaker, several ministers, members of the Armed Forces General Command, and a number of senior Army officers.

Papers Comment on Anniversary

JN0601141991 Baghdad INA in English
1230 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 6, INA—All Iraqi dailies for today have allocated their main stories to talk about the Iraqi Army on its 70th founding anniversary, its heroic feats and national role, emphasising its awaited role in the decisive battle and scoring of victory.

AL-QADISIYAH daily, organ of the the Ministry of Defence has said that the Iraqi Army is standing on the front in preparation for the decisive confrontation with imperialism and that under the command of President Saddam Husayn is conjuring all its feats and combatant glories and the spirit of ever victory to fight the decisive battle so that to destroy the American arrogance and destroy the forces of aggression and therefore to draw up an Arab new political map for the area. [sentence as received]

The paper has further added that the enemies, in the forefront of which is America, do not overlook the strength of Iraq's Army, militarily and in combat. This strength alone has and is still deterring Bush and his allies of satellites and traitors from launching aggression on Iraq.

It has also said that while celebrating its 70th anniversary, the Iraqi Army possesses such great capabilities that enable it to deter any American offensive and to smash it.

As for AL-THAWRAH daily, organ of the Arab Ba'ith Socialist [as received] has said celebrating the Iraqi Army Day is a magnificent and vital occasion when millions of Iraqis and Arabs and Muslims and freemen in the world do remember what they should shoulder of duties and [word indistinct] missions in fighting injustice, tyrants and concentration of evil and aggression.

The paper has added that Iraq is today celebrating this occasion from the mountain to the sea and sharing it are all sons of the Arab nation and the militants defending dignity of the Arab nation. The Iraqi Army has proved to be the army of the people, the nation and difficult tasks.

As for AL-JUMHURIYAH daily, it has stressed that while the Iraqi Army is celebrating its 70th founding anniversary, it will destroy the invasion of Bush who is obsessed with aggression.

It has further said that this army that has been built by Saddam Husayn and prepared for the most honourable and sacred battles and that has completed its preparations for the decisive battle, is the one we are today celebrating its day.

It has further said that if the Army of Iraq has on the second of August completed a dignified chapter and by it Iraq has restored Kuwait, the dear part, and has been protecting it against the American invaders and their tailpieces, the clan of extinct Croesus, Kuwait then will remain for ever a dear part of Iraq.

The paper has concluded that this is our determination, our will and decision from which we will not depart after we have prepared for it all means of achievement for the decisive day and we will not allow Bush or whosoever to distort the future we want or price to make his decision having the upper hand on our clear and sincere decision. [sentence as received]

U.S. Peace Delegation Head Criticizes Blockade

JN0701180891 Baghdad INA in English
1720 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 7, INA—Mrs Ann Montgomery, chairwoman of the American peace delegation has sharply condemned the U.S.-led economic blockade imposed on Iraq to deprive its children and women from food, milk and medicine.

In a statement to INA, she described the decision of boycott as invalid and at variance with all international and humanitarian laws and norms and was adopted by the U.S. Administration and its allies to starve the Iraqi people in an unprecedented step.

She said that her visit and the accompanying delegation to Iraq was to volunteer as a first batch in the Gulf peace camp staged currently in 'Ar'ar area at Iraq's borders with Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], and to voice solidarity with this team which constitutes a human shield to prevent the eruption of the war and effectively contribute to achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region and the entire world.

She added that approach of the peace team was calling for renouncing violence and confirming that problems could not be resolved by war which did not represent will of peoples.

She stressed that the optimal way for settling all problems is the serious dialogue and negotiation with a view to reaching means necessary for engineering the real peace.

Arab Peninsula Struggle Front Cables Saddam

JN0701205891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 7 Jan 91

["Text" of cable to President Saddam Husayn from the Preparatory Committee of the National and Pan-Arab Struggle Front in the Arabian Peninsula—U.S. and European Branch—on the occasion of the New Year; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Respected struggler President Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq. Greetings of Arabism and struggle: On the occasion of the festivities of the New Year, we have the honor to send to Your Excellency our warmest congratulations, and we beseech Almighty God that the next year will see you, your fraternal Iraqi people, and the Arab nation all enjoying further victories toward achieving our nation's strength, unity, and progress.

O leader president, what distinguishes this year from other years is the current sweeping popular awakening of our beloved homeland and the steel-solid determination to confront and repulse the forces of evil and aggression, which are using the Arabian Peninsula, the land of the two holy mosques, as a base for their conspiracy and aggression against the Arab nation.

Your brave and rare confrontation of the invading armies of Abraha [the Abyssinian governor who invaded Mecca with a large army] is an object of appreciation and admiration by all factions of our people in the Arabian Peninsula. Conscience and history will never forget your brave stand, and we pledge to you, as brave men, that we will turn these lands into a fire that will burn up the feet of the invaders. We strongly clasp your hands, O victorious leader. March ahead. May God preserve you.

[Signed] The National and Pan-Arab Struggle Front in the Arabian Peninsula—U.S. and European Branch.

Voice of Free Iraq Urges Army To Fight Saddam

JN0501191091 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq
in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Appeal to the Iraqi Armed Forces and Popular Army]

[Text] O sons of the Iraqi Armed Forces; O brothers within the Popular Army: You are of this people. You are of their kinfolk, sons, tribes, and beloved ones. You are of this people, and part of their present and history. Aim your rifles at the rule of the tyrant Saddam Husayn. Disobey the orders of this regime, which has humiliated our people and undermined our dignity. Save your people from its tyrannical rule and make the anniversary of founding our valiant army a day for victory against the tyrant Saddam. Your victory is close at hand, God willing.

Opposition Radio Urges Driving Saddam From Kuwait

JN0401184291 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq
in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Frankly and clearly we say that our Iraqi people's battle with the tyrant and hangman Saddam Husayn has nothing to do with his staying in Kuwait or his withdrawal from that country. In other words, the Iraqi

opposition to the regime of killing, treachery, and plundering has not been engendered by the Saddam henchmen's occupation of Kuwait. This opposition began at the first moment this professional killer usurped power in great Iraq, an operation that was like a bank robbery in an exciting American feature film.

From the first day of his rule, Saddam began his blatant war against our people and their nationalist, pan-Arab, and noble Islamic forces, which do not compromise with or appease anyone and which no dictator can silence regardless of his power or his sanguinary repression. Indeed, the various sectors of our people, their parties, organizations, and nationalities lost long columns of martyrs and an unlimited number of their strugglers and best sons as fodder for the tyrant's jails and detention camps, his inventions of torture and killing, and his assassinations methods.

While our people were waging their noble, courageous battle against the tyrant, Arab and international forces, which today are being burned by this tyrant's flames, treachery, and contempt—such as sisterly Kuwait and its generous Muslim people—backed and assisted him, refusing to listen to the Iraqi opposition's stories of killing and treachery. Therefore, the fate of the opposition to this abhorrent, murderous regime will not be decided by the final results of the Kuwaiti crisis. This will never be so, because our Iraqi people have defined their firm, unchanging aims that will never be revoked in any way—namely, ending the aberrant situation and restoring Iraq to its own people, a peaceful, generous, truthful, and sincere Iraq that opens its heart to peace and prosperity without tyrants or dictators.

As for Kuwait, or the so-called Gulf crisis, it is only one facet of the multifaceted treachery of Saddam Husayn's regime. And while appreciating the cooperation of the Kuwaiti people, who are afflicted with the crimes of this tyrant, and while appreciating and acknowledging the support of the other Arab and international powers, the Iraqi people view these Arab and international forces as police forces that may in one way or another be subject

to certain circumstances or political calculations dictating to them special stands that are not very enthusiastic in backing the struggle of our people and national forces. Therefore, our steadfast Iraqi people's pledges, aims, and steps are firm regardless of the changing circumstances and irrespective of the changes of events in the region. There is no alternative to the aim of toppling the dictatorial regime and establishing a democratic national regime, based on a genuine popular basis.

Any Arab or international powers that support our struggle now and tomorrow will have our people's deep thanks and gratitude. However, we will not tailor our struggle to fit short-term aims or circumstances but will establish this struggle on a final, firm, and perpetual basis. Our struggle today, given the Kuwait impasse, is aimed at protecting our people and brothers in the region against a destructive war and to do whatever we can to drive the tyrant from Kuwait. However, we will not stop at his expulsion from Kuwait but will continue the march through to the end whatever the sacrifices and no matter how dear the sacrifices may become.

This is the will of the Iraqis—parties, groups, religions, and nationalities. Victory is for us and for our Iraqi people. Death, ignominy, and humiliation to the enemy of God and Iraq, the tyrant Saddam Husayn.

Opposition Says Attacks Set for Western Targets

*JN0701195391 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq
in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Jan 91*

[Text] This is exclusive to the Voice of Free Iraq: On 24 December, the dictator [Saddam Husayn] chaired an important meeting attended by members of the so-called Revolution Command Council, a representative of the dictator's intelligence, and some Ba'th Party officials. The meeting was devoted to discussion of attacks on vital targets in some Arab and Western countries, especially against some active members of the opposition.

Some Ba'th Party figures and directors of intelligence stations in Europe and some Arab countries received urgent instructions contained in cable No. 138/27/12 of 1990 ordering diplomatic missions to facilitate the tasks of the persons who will carry out the attacks in coordination with intelligence officials in these missions.

Foreign Minister Levi Views Gulf Matters**Talks With Syria, Jordan Possible**

TA0801123091 Jerusalem Domestic Service
in Hebrew 1105 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] The Gulf crisis bodes ill for the region, but it might also lead to a situation that might involve great opportunities for Israel, Foreign Minister David Levi believes. Minister Levi said that when the Gulf crisis ends, Israel can achieve real peace with the Arab states and the Palestinians. He believes that Israel should express readiness to hold a dialogue without preconditions with Syria as well. Levi's remarks were made at a background briefing for political correspondents. Our political correspondent Arye Golan was there.

Foreign Minister David Levi was not present at the Likud Knesset faction meeting last night when Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir talked about the saber being rattled over our heads and said that after the Gulf crisis ends, a change is expected in U.S. policy toward Israel and it will have to face political pressures. That, however, is apparently not the sole reason for the foreign minister's belief that the new situation to be created also involves great opportunities for Israel.

After the crisis ends, Israel will be able to achieve real peace in the Middle East, Foreign Minister Levi said. After a military action by the U.S.-led coalition—a speedy action which will bring about Iraq's surrender and defeat—new arrangements will be made in the region, and Levi believes that Israel will be involved in them. These will include the establishment of buffer zones and disarmament to prevent aggression in the future. The foreign minister said it might pay Israel to discuss disarmament in an arrangement that would include Syria, which also has missiles that could endanger Israel. In general, Foreign Minister Levi is prepared for negotiations without preconditions with Damascus as well. He said: We should not fear that the Syrians will demand the Golan Heights. That is not a reason not to meet; it is a guaranteed recipe for perpetuating the status quo. Jordan is also a future partner, the foreign minister said.

Now to the burning problem, or rather what is about to become the burning issue: Iraq. It is amateurish to view an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait as a solution to the crisis, unless the world decides to settle in the desert sands for an entire generation. He believes the United States cannot permit itself an ongoing war of attrition which will lead to negotiations between equals, as though Washington and Baghdad have the same power. That would constitute a victory for Saddam Husayn; therefore, the foreign minister believes, the fighting must end quickly and with an overwhelming and total U.S. victory. Is an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait enough? In Foreign Minister Levi's view there will be a need for several security setups to prevent aggression in the future: supervision of the Iraqi arsenal and an end to Iraq's development of atomic weapons. Without such

moves, the rules of the game in the region will change within a few years, when Saddam Husayn has nuclear weapons. Therefore, a withdrawal from Kuwait alone will not end the crisis. Iraq is still officially in a state of war with Israel because it did not sign the armistice agreements, the foreign minister said.

In the newly created situation, the Palestinian problem is not the main issue. We must aspire to peace with the Arab states. Had a political process been started with the Palestinians, the Iraqi problem would still exist, Foreign Minister Levi believes. On the Palestinian issue, Israel's initiative of May 1989 continues to be valid and will also have to be dealt with.

Says Saddam Retreat No Solution

TA0901103991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1000 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi said that the United States is determined to achieve its aims in the Persian Gulf. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman heard the minister's remarks a short time ago.

[Begin Levi recording] We are not handing out advice. We say there is a danger and, if you do not overcome it in some way, you will have to settle in the sands of Saudi Arabia for years to come because, if you leave and he [Saddam] repeats his aggression, you will not be able to set up the same coalition again, and once again the elements you are defending will be endangered. There is no way the crisis can end just with an announcement that he [Saddam] will retreat or even with a withdrawal. The situation afterwards must be assured, and we must know how stability will be created in the Middle East. The danger called Saddam Husayn, with his ideas and his arsenal, must be ended. [end recording]

Rejects Mubarak Gulf Comments

TA0901103191 Jerusalem Domestic Service
in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has said that Israel is not cannon fodder and, if attacked, it will not exercise self-restraint in order to preserve this or that coalition. Our political correspondent Arye Golan notes that the remarks were made in reaction to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's declaration that he will not stand for Israeli intervention in the Gulf crisis.

In a talk with reporters, Minister Levi said that were Egypt facing the danger of attack, it would also have announced that it intends to respond with full force. The foreign minister stressed that each country has a right to defend itself, and that no responsible country would allow others to attack it with impunity.

HADASHOT Analyzes Levi's Developing Peace Plan

TA0401144591 Tel Aviv HADASHOT (HASHAVU'A supplement) in Hebrew 4 Jan 91 p 8

[Article by Tzvi Gilat: "Levi Has a Plan"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Appearances before groups of Jewish visitors from abroad are used by Israeli leaders as a convenient stage to send messages to the world and receive feedback from supportive audiences. Speaking before the British Board of Jewish Deputies last week, Foreign Minister David Levi, who took the opportunity to issue a warning to Saddam Husayn, outlined five stages on the path toward peace between Israel and the Arabs. Levi has raised these ideas several times before. Nevertheless, the systematic compilation of them shows that Levi is forming a plan that will soon be presented as a single unit, and Levi will probably show no opposition if in due time it is called "the Levi Plan." When Baker's representative, Dennis Ross, arrives here to examine what creative ideas Israeli minds have conceived of so far, Levi will lay out before him a whole fabric of principles and basic assumptions—a perfect scheme—and will, eventually, tell him the following:

A. Peace was made in Europe thanks to Gorbachev. Gorbachev, however, could not have made this great change had it not been for continuous and uncompromising U.S. pressure for democracy and openness. Levi will say, flattering his audience. It is true that the time was right and the background was well prepared, but the United States could not have effectively pressured Gorbachev had the Israeli democracy not stood as a barricade before Soviet expansion in the Middle East. The conclusion, therefore, is that the Israeli democracy in the Middle East must be strengthened as a lever to introduce democracy and change the regime in the region.

B. It had been thought that the problems of the world would be solved once the tension between the superpowers ends and the walls between East and West fall. Now we see that those are necessary but not sufficient conditions. The failure to realize that the combination of fundamentalism and pan-Arabism is dangerous made the world take Saddam Husayn lightly and, through the years, arm him with quantities of high-quality weapons that made him a superpower—a monster that now threatens its creator. Saddam is dangerous because the international balance of terror does not, apparently, apply to him. His might and his readiness could get the world entangled in a global war. My American friends, Levi will say, the problem is not Kuwait; it is the existence of an Arab leader who will stop at nothing, who is worshipped by the masses, and who challenges the West.

Levi will ask: Who is most threatened by Saddam? Israel. Thus, any form of pressure on Israel in a peace process will be interpreted as an attempt to weaken it and will increase the threat to it.

C. Levi will also say that it is impossible for the superpowers, who removed the walls of hostility between them, to accept the existence of such walls between Israel and its neighbors. This is not only a moral question; it is a matter of interests. If the walls are not removed, hostility will not stop. Therefore, the whole world must act to bring about peace between Israel and its neighbors. For many years the Palestinian issue has been considered the cause of wars in the region. Saddam's appearance proves just the opposite. The heart of the problem is the conflict between Israel and the Arab countries.

D. Now is the right time to bring down the walls, and now the United States can do it, Levi will state. Now, for the first time, there is a coalition of moderate Arab countries siding with the West. This coalition depends on the United States for its security and economic stability. Today, the United States needs not only to appease them, Levi will claim, but also to make the Arab countries change their attitude to Israel.

Now, Levi will assert, the State of Israel has proposed a peace initiative. This good and attractive initiative got stuck on the procedural stage of elections in the territories. It is still stuck there, and it seems to be hard to move from there. Why should we not try to implement the plan from a different direction?

The first principle, Levi will make clear, should be the hope of ending the state of belligerency in the region. This is in sync with the circumstances; it suits the world moods; it opens a way to expand the process; and it is quite appropriate for the relevant sides who are in a single coalition, or for Jordan, for example, to join it at a later stage.

The second stage is beginning joint regional projects between the countries of the region. The problems of energy and water are common to all in the region. Israel can contribute its know-how in the development of low-water-consumption agriculture, the use of energy, and so on. The Europeans have already decided to allocate between \$5 to \$7 million for joint projects. The Americans have formed a plan for mutual trust in the region based on joint projects. Joint projects will not only promote peace, but will also determine the nature of the expected peace. Everyone will have something to lose if war breaks out.

The third stage is opening talks on reducing arms in the region. Peace cannot be promoted without interim arrangements of that kind. The need for regional disarmament is, after all, one of the major lessons of the Gulf crisis. Because of Israel's justified fears, talks on arms limitations are impossible before the first two stages of the plan are implemented.

The fourth stage is peace negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries. Once the end of the state of war and agreements on arms limitations are reached, all the sides would feel less threatened. Every now and then reports reach the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem that Syria is not rejecting negotiations with Israel on the spot. Jordan

might join them, too, and Saudi Arabia—though what problems do we have with Saudi Arabia, anyway?

The fifth stage is opening talks between Israel and an elected representation of the Palestinians to solve the conflict between us. Here, of course, lies the mine everyone has been trying unsuccessfully to avoid. What representation? How will it be elected and when? So far, Levi's plan provides no answers to those questions. After all, Levi joined the constraints ministers to prevent the PLO from entering the political process. Shamir has been constantly repeating that the PLO is Saddam's faithful ally, and it should not be talked to. By placing Radwan Abu-'Ayyash and Ziyad Abu-Zayyad under administrative detention, Israel also signalled to the Americans that it is determined not to talk to the PLO. There is no point of even talking about Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. And who would rise today and claim to represent the Palestinians without justifiably fearing for his own life? Just as everybody else, Levi is waiting for the moment when the Palestinians in the territories realize just how miserable their situation is, and how determined is the Israeli—and hopefully the American—refusal to talk to the PLO until a different leadership rises from among them. Who will those leaders be? Who would vouch for their lives? So far the questions remain unanswered.

It seems that at this stage, Levi is not interested in providing concrete answers to those questions. He knows that he has to convince, not only the world, but also—and perhaps mainly—his own party members. It is worth noting that the way the plan is presented here, there is no one who could object to it. In the prime minister's bureau they say: Why not? The prime minister himself spoke about these issues often in the past. Why not? There is no deviation here from the government peace plan. Anyway, who could oppose a plan for peace between Israel and its neighbors? One can oppose the concrete details; we can say that we will not give up anything and at the same time oppose the previous conditions; but these are just details, and there is time to deal with them yet. If a debate does take place, it would probably be over who deserves the credit for it, and whether it is a plan at all.

The plan corresponds to European and U.S. positions, and it is possible that all parties involved would find that it is currently more convenient to put off the main questions: Who will be the Palestinian representatives and what will be discussed with them? The Palestinian opinion of the plan is probably the question least troubling both the Americans and Israel. After all, Iraq must be dealt with first, and its withdrawal from Kuwait, if at all, is but the first link in the process of removing the regional mine. How long will it take to end the threat it is making to the whole world?

This means that perhaps what we see here is a process, but a long, tiresome, and, in view of the past three years, perhaps even bloody one. [passage omitted]

Editorial on Saddam Emerging 'a Winner'

TA0801115891 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 8 Jan 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Geneva Face-Off"]

[Text] Perhaps the only certainty about tomorrow's meeting in Geneva between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz is that it will be fateful. The critical question is not whether the crisis will be resolved by war or by peaceful means. What will determine the course of the world is whether or not Saddam Husayn will come out of the confrontation a winner. If he is perceived to have gained even a little from his aggression, if a "compromise" is achieved which will allow him to keep part of Kuwait or, in return for a concession he can point to an accomplishment such as "an international conference on the Palestinian question"—a euphemism for an international effort to dislodge Israel from Judaea, Samaria and Gaza—he will be the undisputed victor.

That is why current talk of an international conference, whether by the French, who have consistently supported it, or by the U.S., which has in the past opposed it, is playing into Saddam's hands. Egypt's president, Hosni Mubarak, aware of the dangers consequent on a Saddam victory, is therefore vehemently opposed to any linkage between the Kuwait invasion and the Palestinian problem. He knows that a Saddam who will appear to have achieved something for the Palestinians will imperil all Middle East regimes.

Unfortunately, Arab members of the anti-Saddam coalition, and an administration in Washington bent on following them blindly, seem to believe they can steal Saddam's thunder by passing ever-harsher UN resolutions against Israel. What they are achieving is precisely the opposite. Palestinian Arabs consider the U.S. rush to accommodate its coalition allies, condemn Israel and tacitly agree to an international conference to be not an Egyptian and Saudi achievement, but a victory for Saddam Husayn. And they are right.

The Palestinians know, after all, that the revived intifada activities in Israel and "the territories" which triggered these resolutions—from the Temple Mount riot to the knifing incidents in Jerusalem and Yafo—were prompted by the Gulf crisis. Attempting to shift attention from occupied Kuwait to "occupied" Jerusalem is a deliberate Saddam stratagem faithfully followed by the PLO and the various Islamic terror groups. Thanks to Western cooperation, the stratagem has served him well. As indicated by his belligerent speech on Sunday, in which he named the "liberation of Palestine" as one of the war goals, he believes it will continue to serve him well by eliciting pay-offs in Israeli coin.

He will be proved wrong only if the U.S. Administration's stand remains as firm as the declarations of the past few days would lead one to believe. If the U.S. insists on nothing less than complete Iraqi adherence to

the UN resolutions, and if the administration then follows through on its decision to deprive Saddam of the power to threaten his neighbors, the U.S., as former president Richard Nixon wrote in THE NEW YORK TIMES Weekly Review, distributed with this newspaper yesterday, "will have the credibility to deter aggression elsewhere without sending in American troops. The world will take seriously U.S. warnings against aggression."

But anything less than that, any compromise formula devised by European leaders who seem determined to be fitting heirs to Chamberlain and Daladier, will make Saddam a victor—an outcome whose costs are inestimable. As Nixon put it, "When dealing with an insatiable aggressor, a bad peace is worse than war because it would inevitably lead to a bigger war."

Peres Sees Confrontation Not Compromise in Gulf

TA0701113491 Jerusalem Domestic Service
in Hebrew 1000 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres believes that the Persian Gulf crisis will be resolved through confrontation rather than compromise. He believes that Iraq will not attack Israel with missiles, although the actions of a complex man like Saddam Husayn are difficult to predict.

Mr. Peres further says that Israel does not have to announce its course of action in advance. It has outstanding military capability, with which Saddam Husayn is familiar.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Peres made these remarks in an address to a Canadian Jewish Congress delegation.

Gorbachev Says Shamir 'Welcome' in Moscow

TA0901052991 Jerusalem Domestic Service
in English 0500 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev says Prime Minister Shamir is welcome to come to Moscow to discuss the Middle East situation. Gorbachev made this statement at a meeting with Edgar Bronfman, the president of the World Jewish Congress. The two discussed Jewish emigration and the Arab-Israeli dispute. [passage omitted]

UN Official Holds News Conference at End of Visit

TA0401191391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Guido de Marco, the president of the UN General Assembly, today expressed the hope that Israel would agree to an international conference to resolve the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. This was reported by our political correspondent 'Immanu'el Halperin.

De Marco made these statements during a news conference in Jerusalem at the end of two days of visiting refugee camps in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

This morning the Assembly president visited Bethlehem and was accompanied by Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj. De Marco later said that the situation in the territories is tense, and he added that he had had the opportunity to observe the refugees' suffering close up. He said he intended to report to the UN General Assembly and consult with the UN secretary general. During the news conference, De Marco also asserted that the international standing of the United Nations is constantly growing stronger, and he pointed out that the United States had supported the convening of an international conference at the Security Council. De Marco said he will not ask for any change in the mandate of the UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] organization; he noted, however, that Israel should not oppose the reporting of human rights violations.

[Begin de Marco recording in English] ...violations of human rights. I am confident that also the Government of Israel should not feel afraid that these matters are being monitored. I was told, with great emphasis, about Israel being the only democracy in this region apart from Turkey. Well, this is what democracies are all about—if we are going to give them a meaning—that although sometimes violations of human rights do happen, the government should be the first not to be afraid that these violations be denounced. [end recording]

Terrorist Groups Warned Against Attacking Israel

NC0901062391 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World
0530 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] The United States and other international parties recently warned terrorist organizations in south Lebanon against exacerbating the situation as long as contacts are continuing to avert the outbreak of war in the Gulf region.

According to security sources in Lebanon, the Beirut Government has warned the terrorist organizations against attacking Israel from Lebanese territory even if war breaks out in the Gulf lest Israel retaliate by invading Lebanon.

Commentary on Jordanian Army 'Defensive' Maneuvers

TA0601104991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
6 Jan 91 p A1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "An Offensive Defense?"]

[Text] What until recently was considered a large-scale exercise of the Jordanian Army turns out to be an emergency defensive formation against Israel, which is probably meant to face a possible regional complication if war breaks out in the Gulf. This can be inferred from the extent of the forces and the nature of their deployment.

The Jordanian "exercise" has lasted too long to be seen as a simple maneuver. The Jordanian divisions are slowly being gathered and deployed as if to prepare for an overall defense of Jordan. This deployment will probably remain in force until the Gulf crisis is over.

The question bothering the experts is whether this emergency deployment of the Jordanian Army is purely defensive, while signalling to Israel that the Jordanian Army will fight to prevent an Israeli passage—by air or land—through Jordanian territory to hit Iraqi targets. Another possible scenario is that King Husayn knows Saddam Husayn's military plans, and is therefore in a hurry to have his Army stationed in the field and perhaps even to join those plans in case war spreads to this area as well.

It is worth remembering that in the past Jordan has allowed Iraqi pilots to carry out reconnaissance flights along the Jordanian-Israeli border, and they are still supplying Iraq with information gathered from their radar stations. The experts tend to favor the first option. At the same time, they note that just as Jordan would not like to see Israeli forces crossing its territory, Israel would hold Jordan responsible if Iraqi planes cross Jordanian airspace to attack Israeli targets. Should this happen, Israel would not only defend itself from its own territory; its planes would probably try to intercept the Iraqi planes.

The Jordanian Army has four divisions, of which two are armored and two are mechanized. In such a defensive deployment, the units are stationed along the main routes.

According to foreign sources, reservists are being drafted in Jordan to join the standing Army. The Jordanians have over 30,000 reserve soldiers. In addition, ever since the Gulf crisis started, many have been drafted into the popular army, according to the same sources.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens termed the Jordanian move as a defensive drill. It is not assumed in Israel that Jordan will want to take part in an attack on Israel. It is noted, however, that any defensive formation could very quickly become offensive.

Romanian Delegation Arrives, Confers With Levi

TA0601192591 Jerusalem Domestic Service
in Hebrew 1705 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Excerpts] A Romanian parliamentary delegation headed by the president of the Romanian Senate has arrived for a visit. Israel attaches great importance to the visit, particularly in view of the crisis in the Persian Gulf. The delegation conferred with Foreign Minister David Levi this evening. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports:

[Begin recording] [Kohen] What impressed me most is the confidence displayed by Israelis in light of the Gulf crisis, Alexandru Birladeanu, president of the Romanian

Senate, said. This also holds true for the Israeli authorities, he said. I asked him how Romania perceives the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

I cannot elaborate on the subject, Birladeanu said, but we came here with solid views. We took part in the actions taken by the civilized countries. We voted in the UN Security Council against Iraq's aggression in Kuwait, and our position on the matter is known.

I asked Foreign Minister David Levi what Israel can do at a time when the Eastern bloc is experiencing enormous turmoil and trying to institute a free market economy.

[Levi] Israel can serve as a guide in the socioeconomic sphere and can help them move from their old system to a modern market economy. This is a very important issue for these countries. I hope relations between Israel and Romania, as well as relations with all of East Europe and the Soviet Union first and foremost, will continue to grow stronger. The big reform taking place in the Soviet Union has brought about improved bilateral relations in many diverse areas. [end recording]

The Romanian delegation will confer with the prime minister and will visit the Knesset.

Direct Flights Agreement Reached With Bulgaria

TA0601100491 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
6 Jan 91 p A4

[Report by Zohar Blumenkrantz]

[Text] In discussions held over the weekend between airline officials, Bulgaria and Israel agreed to open a direct air link between the two countries.

The new line is scheduled to begin operating on 1 April. In the initial stage, charter flights will be employed.

At the same time, it was reported that last week Israel officially asked the Soviet Union to operate 20 charter flights between the two countries. The flights will begin on 23 January and will be operated by El Al. The tickets will be marketed by the Airtour Company, belonging to El Al and travel agents, and will go for \$545 per ticket. Children up to the age of 12 will be given a 50-percent discount.

Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav last night welcomed the agreement with Bulgaria. He also expressed the hope that the USSR authorities approve the flights El Al and Aeroflot have agreed on in order to begin them on time.

IDF Ups Alert; Iraqi Chemical Attack Not Expected

TA0901064091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has increased its readiness, namely in the Air Force, Intelligence, and the rear. Military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe

says the General Staff is also on a heightened state of readiness, in light of the Geneva meeting this morning. Military sources say the results of the meeting could influence the IDF's state of preparedness.

Military sources have also reiterated that there is the lowest probability that Israel would be attacked by chemical weapons. The sources added that if Iraq did attack Israel with missiles armed with chemical warheads, the chances were very slim that they would be aimed at Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, or rural areas in the south. Therefore, it has been decided not to distribute gas masks at this time. However, the equipment is available in local warehouses and can be distributed within hours.

Defense Minister Views Gas Masks Distribution

TA0801145491 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 8 Jan 91 pp 1, 13

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer in Arens' Knesset office on 7 January]

[Text] [Arens] I suppose some Israelis feel a certain tension, but that is because we live in the Middle East, which is a tense region. Nevertheless, we have very good reason to fully trust the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and its ability to defend the country and its citizens if it is called upon to do so. I am not at all sure, however, that this will be necessary.

[Schiffer] Nevertheless, the defense establishment has decided to distribute gas masks to the rural population. How should that move be interpreted?

[Arens] We decided on a phased and gradual distribution of the masks a long time ago. The gas masks are being moved from the central depot to be stored in homes. The distribution to the rural population is yet another phase in the gradual distribution we had decided upon.

[Schiffer] And what about those people who do not reside in the areas where the masks will be distributed?

[Arens] We are telling the entire population that there is no reason to worry. Saddam Husayn is not very likely to attack Israel. Furthermore, his ability to inflict physical damage on Israel is limited.

[Schiffer] Has the IDF raised its state of alertness in the last few days, in anticipation of the 15 January deadline?

[Arens] Israel and the IDF in particular have been set and ready for the past five months. As far as we are concerned, nothing has changed recently.

[Schiffer] People are anxious that if the Gulf crisis is ultimately settled through a political solution, it will be at Israel's expense.

[Arens] We are an anxious people; we are always fretful. There is, however, worldwide recognition of the danger

Saddam Husayn poses to the world at large, and not just to Israel. I do not suppose that recognition will disappear overnight.

[Schiffer] Mr. Defense Minister, do you sleep fitfully these days?

[Arens] I sleep very well. I hope all Israeli citizens sleep well, and I get the impression that they definitely do.

Arab Party Founded in Nazareth, Backs Arab Unity

TA0601140591 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
6 Jan 91 p 6

[Report by Fayiz 'Abbas]

[Text] A new Arab party called the Socialist Nationalistic Front was established yesterday in Nazareth. The founding of the party had been discussed for about six months by 16 Arab residents of the Triangle and the Galilee. Its platform will be published on Tuesday.

The cosigners of the party's establishment manifesto include two of the cofounders of al-Ard movement, which was outlawed in the 1960's: Mansur Qardush from Nazareth and Salih Baransi from al-Tayyibah. Another cosigner was Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam 'Abd-al-Ghani, a professor at Bi'r Zayt University.

According to Qardush, the party was established to fill a nationalistic void among Israeli Palestinians. "As Palestinians, we are an integral part of the Arab nation, and we have reached the conclusion that only by uniting the Arab nation will we be able to attain a comprehensive settlement in the region," he said. He added that Israel should treat Arab nationalism seriously and with respect, and it should strive to launch a dialogue with the Arabs. Only then will it feel safer.

The new party's platform is very reminiscent of that of the al-Ard movement, which was founded after Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir assumed power, and which endorsed al-Nasir's ideology favoring socialism and Arab unity.

Death, Injuries Noted in Territorial Clashes

TA0601085991 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 6 Jan 91 p 10

[Excerpts] Israeli soldiers yesterday shot and wounded at least 12 Palestinians, perhaps as many as 24, in the Gaza Strip refugee camp of Jabalyah, according to Arab sources. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources said eight were wounded on the day after an Arab bus driver was shot and killed after crashing into two Israeli vehicles.

In the West Bank, Arab sources reported a 12-year-old youth killed by a live bullet in the head after a clash in the al-Fari'ah refugee camp near Nablus. An Arab man struck by a stone while driving his car near 'Anabta a week ago died in the hospital yesterday. [passage omitted]

The body of Salam Salamah, 45, of the 'Askar refugee camp, was found in a refuse dump near Rujayb, south-east of Nabulus. A statement signed by the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] found near the body said he cooperated with the authorities. [passage omitted]

Scattered clashes between demonstrators and troops were reported from several West Bank centers, including Hebron, Janin, and Ramallah. [passage omitted]

Shots Fired From Jordan; Injuries Reported in Gaza

TA0701055691 *Jerusalem Domestic Service*
in English 0500 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Shots were fired at an Israeli patrol last night north of Jericho. No one was injured. A Voice of Israel reporter says the shots were fired from across the Jordanian border.

In Khan Yunus, two masked youths were injured in a clash with soldiers. The youths were part of a group which tried to attack a soldier with a club last night. The soldier shot and injured two of them.

Two soldiers were lightly injured yesterday by stone throwers in the Gaza Strip. They were treated in the Barzilai Hospital in Ashqelon. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Arye Der'i has extended by three months the order banning East Jerusalem resident Zuhayrah Kamal from leaving the country. Kamal is a leading figure in the Democratic Front group and may meet with members of the hostile group abroad.

KAKH Activists Shoot at Arab Villagers, Policemen

TA0501182791 *Jerusalem Domestic Service*
in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Police are at this moment using reinforcements in an attempt to make arrests at the Tapuah settlement, which includes many KAKH activists among its residents. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that, as is their custom every Shabbat, the KAKH activists descended to the stream situated between their settlement and the Arab village of Yasuf, where the villagers, as usual, pelted them with stones. Today, the KAKH activists shot at the Arab residents, and the Arab policemen who arrived on the scene to make arrests were chased away by KAKH gunfire.

Update on Incidents in Territories 6 Jan

TA0701085491 *Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew*
7 Jan 91 p 6

[Report by Shruga Zeiger and Doron Me'iri]

[Text] Responding to a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] call, Gaza Strip residents yesterday protested the trial of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin by holding a general strike.

In a clash between IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops and residents in the al-Mughazi refugee camp, a wounded youth was evacuated to Ma'madani Hospital in Gaza. Four youths were wounded in the al-Shati' refugee camp; one of them, a 24 year old, sustained a bullet injury in the neck. Two were wounded in Khan Yunus, two in the village of Zu'waydah near Bani-Suhaylah, and two more in the al-Nusayrat and Jabalyah refugee camps.

Shaykh Hamid al-Baytawi, Tulkarm's qadi and one of the most prominent Hamas leaders, whom the security forces detained on 13 December 1990, has been placed under one-year administrative detention.

Stones and axes were thrown yesterday at an Israeli car at the entrance to al-Tur in East Jerusalem. One of the axes broke the rear windshield and landed in the car, but caused no casualties. Stones were also thrown at an Israeli car driving through the Wadi al-Jawz neighborhood. The driver, who was slightly injured by glass shards, was taken to Hadassah-Mount Scopus Hospital. In the neighborhood of Sawanah, stones hurled at an Israeli car broke the front windshield but hit no one.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown yesterday at a Border Police patrol in the Old City. Another Border Police squad, which was pelted with stones in the Old City walls near Damascus Gate, responded by firing rubber bullets; one of the stone throwers was wounded, but managed to escape. Elsewhere in the Old City, locals hurled stones at a Border Police observation point. They were dispersed with tear gas.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 7 January, in a page 8 report by Jon Immanuel, adds: "The Civil Administration yesterday banned two Palestinian journalists, Nayif Suwaylat of AL-SHA'B and 'Asri Ziyad of AL-QUDS, who both cover Janin, from entering Israel. Both have been charged with security offenses in the past, the banning order says."]

Activists in Territories Using Ham Radios

TA0301094491 *Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT*
in Hebrew 3 Jan 91 pp 1, 12

[Report by Hayim Broida and Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpts] "The PLO maintains a two-way communication system with the territories, with at least four or five radio stations transmitting from the territories to PLO headquarters," says radio ham David Ben-Basat from Ra'anana, who claims he began monitoring these transmissions several months ago.

Ben-Basat further said that radio hams from the territories have put their equipment at the disposal of Fatah activists, who broadcast to PLO headquarters several times each day, and that each transmission lasts several minutes. The transmissions include reports on events in the field and operational instructions pertaining primarily to fund distribution. [passage omitted]

Reception of the radio transmissions is very good and both sides are heard clearly. They conduct conversations in plain language and use no codes or code words, although they use nicknames, presumably to prevent exposure of their identity.

Arab Committee Rejects National Service Proposal

TA0701115691 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
7 Jan 91 p A3

[Report by 'Atallah Mansur]

[Excerpts] The Supreme Arab Follow-Up Committee has rejected outright the proposal raised by Minister David Magen, the minister in charge of minorities affairs, that Arab youths be drafted for national service instead of military service. Members of the committee made clear that they view the proposal as an attempt by the government to shirk its obligation to guarantee equal rights for all the citizens.

In a special session in Shefar'am, Arab Knesset members from the Labor Party, MAPAM [United Workers Party], the Progressive List for Peace and Equality, the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, and the Arab Democratic Party said that they were summoned for a special meeting with Minister Magen to discuss the issue. Some claimed that the aim of the proposal is to draft Arab youths for service in order to free Jewish soldiers to suppress the intifadah. Others viewed national service as a form of forced labor, while still others maintained that

they would agree to the idea of national service only after peace agreements between Israel and the Palestinians were signed. [passage omitted]

It was decided that a letter will be sent to the United Nations to heighten world awareness of the discrimination against Arabs prevailing in Israel and that a series of protest acts will be staged.

Ethiopian Jews Continue To Immigrate

TA0601141191 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
6 Jan 91 p 2

[Report by aliyah affairs correspondent Natan Ro'i]

[Excerpts] The Jewish Agency's operation to bring Ethiopia's Jews to Israel has so far brought 19,000 immigrants, who have been absorbed in 55 locations. Another 1,000 Ethiopian Jews are expected to arrive by the end of the month. A plane carrying 195 Ethiopian immigrants landed at Ben-Gurion Airport on Friday night. [passage omitted]

Some 3,673 Ethiopian Jews immigrated to Israel in 1990. [passage omitted]

Uri Gordon, head of the Jewish Agency's Aliyah Department, says that over 20,000 Ethiopian Jews live in Israel today: 50 percent in the north, 20 percent in the Jerusalem District, 11 percent in central Israel, and 19 percent in the south.

Border Closed to Non-Jordanians From Iraq, Kuwait*JN0901121891 Amman Domestic Service in English
1203 GMT 9 Jan 91*

[Text] Jordan said today it was closing its border to all non-Jordanians leaving Iraq and Kuwait until it received international help to deal with them.

Jordan's top refugee official Hammad Salamah said as of today, Wednesday and until further notice Jordan has decided not to receive any evacuees from all nationalities coming from Iraq and Kuwait unless specific plans are worked out for their departure by their governments and international bodies.

Mr. Hammad said the decision came due to the lack of necessary capabilities to accomodate these evacuees

Badran Comments on Closure*JN0901123591 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1210 GMT 9 Jan 91*

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran has stated that his country has asked Iraq not to allow any evacuee to enter Jordanian territory until airspace is reopened to air traffic. He pointed out that his country has decided to suspend receiving evacuees until international bodies settle this problem.

Speaking at the House of Representatives, Badran explained that the Saudi authorities yesterday declined to allow a plane carrying evacuees from an Asian country passing over its territory. Badran emphasized that, if a war breaks out, major changes will take place on the map. He said he believes that many regimes will no longer exist as a result of this war, on the basis of what he called studies and information. Badran said that Jordan will ask for assistance from Iraq, Syria, and Egypt if it is attacked by Israel. He said that this aggression will not only be against Jordan but, against all the Arab countries.

Editorial Views Baker-'Aziz Meeting Prospects*JN0901110291 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
9 Jan 91 pp 1, 18*

[Editorial: "The Geneva Meeting: The Nation Is Against Its Enemies"]

[Text] When Tariq 'Aziz meets with James Baker today, millions of Arabs and Muslims will be standing behind the Iraqi foreign minister, while the forces of invasion, plunder, and grudges will be standing behind the chair of the American U.S. secretary of state.

This is the picture. Baghdad comes to the meeting with a true desire for peace, justice, and love, and Washington comes with war, injustice, and hatred as a bridge to our nation and its way of dealing with it.

Therefore, we do not care whether the meeting lasts less than five minutes or more than several hours, and nor do we care whether Washington's message to Baghdad is one sentence or 50 pages long. The Iraqis, who have made up their minds to confront American arrogance, who are supported by their Arab Nation and their Islamic world, and who have prepared the utmost of their power for this sacred confrontation, will send a message to the Americans. And it is they who will place before Baker the decision of Iraq and its nation to wage a war, if imposed on us, with the highest degree of readiness to defeat the enemy and break his back, regardless of the enormity of the cost or the sacrifice.

In Vietnam, Vietnamese heroes rubbed the Americans' faces in the dirt and the mud of the swamps, and in Afghanistan, the mujahidin put the Soviet head in the guillotine. The American and Soviet wounds, which are still fresh, are proof that faith defeats infidelity, love destroys hatred, justice undermines injustice, and that it is the Iraqis, their nation, and all those who want to settle scores with Washington, who are prepared and have the ability to transform life in our region and in our world as a whole.

It is not important that Baker might talk rudely today or level his threats with the mentality of a cowboy. What is important is that he should realize, when he listens to Tariq 'Aziz, that his voice is the voice of the millions of Arabs and Muslims and that his language is the language of genuine civilized, humanitarian, and extremely polite people. A true solution cannot be found inside a Swiss hotel room but throughout the Arab arena and the Islamic land, and even in the capitals and cities of infidelity, malice, and injustice that have been gathered under Washington's helmet and which have begun to slip quietly out of the trap.

We wish Tariq 'Aziz every success and we believe he will achieve it, and we also wish Baker success, but we doubt that he will achieve it if he has come to Geneva to repeat his words that we have all heard with ridicule and pity.

Reportage on King's Visit to Germany*WA0801174590*

For reportage on the visit by King Husayn to Germany, including reports on his talks with President Richard von Weizsaecker, Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, please see the Germany section of the 8 January West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Prince Hasan Addresses Officials on Gulf, Law*JN0901074191 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jan 91*

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, met this morning at the University of Science and

Technology with district officers of the Irbid and al-Mafraq governorates, the councils of deans of al-Yarmuk University and the University of Science and Technology, teaching staff members, heads of student societies in both universities, heads of trade unions, chambers of commerce, and youth organizations in the two governorates. During the meeting, his highness talked about the reality and repercussions of the Gulf crisis. The following is our correspondent's dispatch on this meeting:

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, began his speech by conveying the greetings of His Majesty King Husayn to all citizen groups in both governorates. He particularly mentioned those in the Popular Army, because of what they are doing to defend the homeland. On the Gulf crisis, which was the crux of the meeting, his highness said the crisis has now become a world confrontation because of its dimensions, implications, and the disparities on the ground between international law and justice through the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions.

"When we talk about the repercussions of the crisis, the so-called Gulf crisis, in fact we do not give it the name it deserves, because the Gulf crisis has become in fact—I do not say a crisis—but a world confrontation. When we talk about international law, we, at the same time, talk about justice. We, however, realize that there are disparities between international law and justice as translated on ground."

On the repercussions of the crisis, which his highness called a confrontation, he said that the Arab and Islamic street, including all citizen groups has become involved and has interacted with these repercussions.

"Here, I say that this involvement and interaction has come about in light of what we have experienced here for 23 years of occupation, in terms of denunciation and condemnation of this occupation and denunciation and condemnation of the illegitimate annexation of other people's land by force. As a result of the 2 August events, we were surprised by a series of Security Council resolutions, more than 10 of them, which have moved the world to adopt a position that encompassed varying and opposing nationalities to reject the principle of occupation and the principle of annexing other people's land by force with regard to the Kuwaiti issue. The Kuwaiti issue, as we see it, is an Arab-Arab issue. One would regret this dimension where Arab and Islamic armies are participating in this confrontation, if it were to take place, God forbid, which is a reality that might be standing and imposed in the next few days. When we talk of the Gulf crisis, we are really talking about repercussions that harm human dignity, where there are disparities between legality and justice."

His highness warned of the results of a military confrontation based on technology, if it were to take place, God forbid, on international entities, the environment, and

human beings, in addition to the inability of Civil Defense authorities to contain its short- and long-term dangers.

"Two days ago, we held an international meeting in Amman in which more than 40 experts and international figures of more than 20 nationalities participated. It was a continuation of the meeting called by the UN secretary general on 17 November in Paris. Allow me to quote some ideas from that meeting among which is that the temperature resulting from the explosion of 400 oil wells and the daily burning of 10 million barrels of oil will cause black smoke over an area of 620,000 square miles. This, as some scientists estimate, will extend to South Asia, and will directly affect seasonal rainfall. Consequently, it will cause famine for tens of millions of people. If the principle of withdrawal is carried out, then it is very obvious that the Iraqi position of 12 August calls for the implementation of this principle. And this principle should, at the same time, cover all issues related to the occupation of territory."

At the end of the meeting, his highness called on each person to be a supervisor of himself, to strengthen his confidence in what we have prepared ourselves for, to think about resolving our problems by giving more and proceeding on the difficult road that we have taken from the beginning of this century, and to be more vigilant and mature in dealing with current issues.

"I greet the spirit of youth and their readiness for sacrifices. I do not doubt that there are thousands of our youths in the Armed Forces, the Armed Forces reservists, and the Popular Army. Among them are 750 here in training at the University of Science and Technology."

His highness met earlier with the councils of deans of both universities, the University of Science and Technology and al-Yarmuk University, and was briefed on their educational methods. He also saw members of the Popular Army carrying out their field training.

Nicaragua's Ortega Arrives En Route to Baghdad

JN0901073691 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
2100 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega arrived in Amman from New York today en route to Baghdad on a three-day visit to Iraq. In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, he said that his visit came as part of his efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, especially before the forthcoming Geneva meeting.

He also said that he would be meeting senior Jordanian officials during his visit to Amman. He added that he would leave for Baghdad to meet with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to try to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

UNICEF Aid Arrives; Evacuee Camps To be Built*JN0901061591 Amman Jordan Television Network
in English 2000 GMT 8 Jan 91*

[Dispatch by Rana Najim]

[Text] In response to the numerous appeals by Jordan to the international community to replenish its almost dried-up resources, a Royal Jordanian cargo plane chartered by UNICEF [United Nations Children's Fund] arrived early this morning from Copenhagen with a load of essential drugs and medical supplies. These much-needed supplies should make up for a little of Jordan's medical supplies already used up during the summer evacuee relief operation, and help Jordan prepare for another expected flood of evacuees if war breaks out.

[Begin UNICEF official Nigel Fisher recording] So, these drugs are going to go to the Ministry of Health, and there they will be stored to see what happens over the next few days. We are very concerned that the government not be left with a large bill like it was last time for meeting all the costs of evacuees. So, we and a number of other UN agencies are trying to work to prepare for the next time, which we hope wouldn't happen. At the same time as these drugs are coming in, we are out at al-Ruwayshid, constructing a second camp at al-Ruwayshid, a new camp at al-Ruwayshid for ten thousand people. And, if the government is agreeable we are willing to do the same in al-Azraq for a third camp. So, we are trying to prepare for the next time around. [end recording]

This load is worth almost half a million dollars. It will be stored and distributed according to the various evacuee camps needs. Once this plane is unloaded, it will make another trip and will return tomorrow with more supplies.

Editor on 'Arabiyat-GCC Envoys' Meeting*JN0501152191 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
5 Jan 91 pp 1, 18*

[Dispatch by the parliamentary affairs editor]

[Text] What happened at last Thursday's closed meeting between House of Representatives Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] ambassadors in Amman? Many who are following the developments of the Gulf crisis are wondering about it, especially since the crisis is getting closer to the UN Security Council ultimatum for Iraqi troops to withdraw from Kuwait or face war. The first part of the meeting, which was at the request of the Kuwaiti ambassador in Amman, was an open one.

AL-RA'Y found out that the GCC ambassadors had planned the meeting at the request of their countries' leaders. They called for formulating a Jordanian initiative to resolve the crisis peacefully, holding an Arab summit to discuss the crisis and prevent it from exploding militarily, and applying the appropriate solutions that would guarantee the conflicting sides' rights

and save face for some. Moreover, they called on parliamentary delegations to take action on all levels, and on the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] to hold an extraordinary session and draft peaceful resolutions to the crisis.

In light of this, it is time to return to what his Majesty King Husayn has always called for—namely, that the crisis must be resolved within the Arab household away from any foreign intervention, and that an Arab-Arab dialogue must be started. There might be talk about the GCC foreign ministers visiting Jordan and that the atmosphere is appropriate for such a visit, and the visit might be soon. It is as if the recent GCC summit in Doha has agreed on this.

The meeting between the GCC ambassadors and the House of Representatives speaker was to sound out their full conviction with regard to the Jordanian House of Representative's ability to impose what it wants and direct the state toward the cherished peace. Hopes are pinned on what appears on the horizon and portends a peaceful solution within the Arabs. We say that Jordan's heart is open for any Arab from the Ocean to the Gulf. Jordan has always sought to gather and unite the nation. It has never closed its doors to anyone.

During the closed session, a heated, emotional discussion took place with regard to what is currently happening in the area. The ambassadors expressed their anger and indignation at the Jordanian press. They said it conveys a biased viewpoint toward Iraq. They accused it of conveying neither their view of the crisis nor the view of those in Jordan who oppose the entry of the Iraqi forces into Kuwait. We wonder: How do you want the Jordanian press to convey your viewpoint when you ask for a closed session with Dr. 'Arabiyat, away from the press?! We are astonished by words that contradict actions!!

They would have liked the House of Representatives—the representative of the people—to pressure the ordinary Jordanian to change his position, and to ban conferences and symposiums in support of Iraq that also condemn the presence of the invading foreign forces in the Arabian Peninsula near the Islamic holy places. They say: The House has the authority over the press, the executive authority, and the authority to direct the Jordanian press, and that the press contributes in escalating the situation!!

That was demanded by diplomats, although Jordan is experiencing a stage of democracy and freedom initiated by our leader his Majesty King Husayn, given that democracy is the best solution to the circumstances currently being experienced by our nation and which will be witnessed by the entire world in the future. They pretended to forget that through such a course, Jordan will set an example for other world states and will constitute the best model in view of the freedom enjoyed by its people and their honest expression of their views on events.

The Jordanian response by Dr. 'Arabiyat was that the press is now in its best shape under democracy. He said the press is now an extension of the Jordanian man in the street, who was harmed by the deployment of foreign forces in the Arabian peninsula and the Arabian Gulf area. He said these forces are the forces of infidelity and tyranny, which practiced colonialism in the past and which want to renew and revive colonialism in order to crush the Arab will and the Iraqi Arab force which constitutes the hope for preserving Arab dignity and imposing what the Arabs want, and which said no to the foreign forces that arrived on the feeble pretext that the Iraqi force poses a threat to the security and stability of the Arabian Gulf states.

He added: The House of Representatives and the executive authority have no power over the press, which is an independent popular authority which is committed to the course of this country under its Hashemite leadership and its proud people, who have never hesitated to support just issues and who have offered up dear sacrifices in the service of its nation's causes. He said the Jordanian Army took part in fending off all aggressions against Arab states. He added that we are now witnessing unprecedented national unity and a cohesion between the leadership and the grassroots. He affirmed that we now need more than ever before to close Arab ranks and promote joint Arab action and real solidarity to achieve supreme pan-Arab interests, rearrange our ranks, and confront our enemies who are threatening our existence and future.

'Arabiyat said: Your media (in the Gulf) are launching campaigns against our leadership, government, and people, and are leveling unjust accusations at us. Your media abuse us, and name us conspirators. Moreover, your governments have expelled without prior notice Jordanians and Palestinians who contributed to your awakening. This has taken place upon government, not individual, instructions. We were not involved in any acts similar to your acts. So, who is to blame? And who aims to harm relations?

Then, a debate took place on the foreign troops' deployment in the Arabian peninsula. The answer was that these forces intervened after the Iraqi forces entered Kuwait, and that their presence depends on Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. However, the diplomats forgot that the Americans stated that their presence will continue even if Iraq withdraws from Kuwait, and that the aim is to occupy oil wells and to guarantee its flow for many years to come. They also forgot the aims related to the sale of the old weapons, especially after the treaty on the termination of the cold war, European unity in 1992, finding jobs for the unemployed, and destroying the Iraqi forces.

When asked about how the foreign troops entered Saudi Arabia [from the Red Sea] and whether they entered the area of holy Medina, the diplomats responded that the forces came through Khaybar. The diplomats were then confused, and tried to correct what was said by Saudi

diplomat, who did not know or pretended not to know the size of the area in which the foreign forces are deployed in Saudi Arabia, so that at one point he said it is more or less 1,500 [square] km, and then said other confused things which reflect nothing but ignorance about the true state of affairs.

Parliament 'Clarification'

JN0801180691 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1645 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Amman, 8 Jan (PETRA)—We received the following from the General Secretariat of Parliament:

On 5 January 1991, some Jordanian newspapers published a news analysis on the meeting between House of Representative Speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat and Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] ambassadors. Moreover, some weekly magazines published interviews and comments on the same subject. So as not to blow this issue out of proportion, and in order to comply with the freedom of press, we would appreciate publication of the following clarification:

The meeting between House of Representatives Speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat and the GCC ambassadors came at the request of the ambassadors in order to congratulate him on winning the speakership of the house. The meeting was in the framework of the usual conventional and brotherly meetings between the house speakers and the fraternal Arab diplomatic missions, in addition to the other diplomatic missions in Jordan. During this meeting a frank, brotherly, and objective exchange of viewpoints was conducted on the Gulf crisis and its dangerous developments, the Jordanian position in all its aspects, and King Husayn's constructive role on the Arab and international arenas to resolve the crisis within an Arab-Arab dialogue and unify Arab ranks in the service of the Arab nation's interests, objectives, and aspirations. We hope that our brothers in the news media will seek accuracy in what is published, stress the positive points which serve the interests of the nation in its entirety, and desist from publishing unfounded news.

We beseech God to guide us on the correct path.

Stock Exchange Official on Impact of Crisis

JN0501205291 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1617 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Ibrahim al-Bilbaysi, acting director general of the Amman Stock Exchange, says the Gulf crisis has affected share trading considerably, with the last five months of 1990 experiencing a slump in bond trading, adversely affecting Jordan's economy, and potentially causing billions of dollars in financial losses. None of the sectors of the economy will be spared. The result has been an adverse effect on the profit margin of companies, reduced stock marketability, and falling share prices. This was stated at a news conference held by Mr. al-Bilbaysi this morning. Details in the following report by Jawad al-'Umari:

[al-'Umar] Al-Bilbaysi said that the last five months of 1990 have seen trading activity fall by 74.7 percent relative to the same period of 1989. The number of shares in circulation has also dropped by 71.6 percent, and concluded contracts have fallen by 60.6 percent. Average daily trading has fallen by 75.4 percent. And general record prices of equity in stock companies active in various economic sectors have declined from 135.7 points at the end of the first seven months of 1990 to 118.4 points at the end of the last five months of the same year. Thus, the decline amounted to 17.3, or 12.7 percent.

Al-Bilbaysi explained the extent to which companies engaged in various economic sectors have been affected, and the industries that were worst hit in terms of the daily average circulation and record share prices. In the way of the rate of the daily circulation, the sectors most badly hit were services, followed by insurance and banking industries. As for the record figures of the prices of circulated shares, the sector most affected was the insurance, followed by the industrial sector, banking, and services. Al-Bilbaysi said the first seven months of 1990 were marked by active trading not seen by the exchange since its inception, and during which the market achieved record figures in trading far exceeding what the market achieved in 1989, which serves as a benchmark of record figures. Then, the market realized an increase of 21.7 percent of the circulation size, 7

percent of the number of shares circulated, and 8.7 percent of the number of concluded contracts.

Concerning the boom experienced by the market in the months preceding the Gulf crisis, al-Bilbaysi said:

[Begin al-Bilbaysi recording] The pronounced growth and boom in the amount and rates of circulation during the first seven months of 1990 compared with the same period of 1989 are due to a successful government economic reform program which adopted financial, monetary, and economic policies seeking increased economic growth rates, and redressed state budget and balance of payments. The Government advocated a policy of increased investment savings in various economic sectors, encouraging exports, slashing imports, rationalizing consumer spending, curbing public spending, promoting tourism, extending facilities to foster investment in manufacturing industries, and boosting remittances from Jordanian expatriates [words indistinct] national economy. [end recording]

[al-'Umar] At the outset of his news conference, Mr. Ibrahim al-Bilbaysi had noted the dynamism of the market over the past 13 years on the path of consolidating clear concepts of investment in securities, thus making itself a bridge for regional financial cooperation. He observed that the Amman stock exchange has advised most Arab exchange markets, which drawing on the expertise and skill of its staff in the area of securities,

Karami Cables Bush on Israeli Withdrawal, Gulf

NC0801145991 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Cable sent by Prime Minister 'Umar Karami to U.S. President George Bush on 8 January—read by announcer]

[Text] His Excellency President George Bush, President of the United States of America. Mr. President: Thank you for your cable congratulating me on assuming the post of prime minister in Lebanon. Thank you also for the affirmation of your country's continued strong support for Lebanon's independence, unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and support for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from its territory.

On this occasion I would like to assure you that my government will continue to work for the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement in order to achieve all of its objectives and to establish state sovereignty on all Lebanese territory.

We pin much hope on your friendly government's support in implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425, calling for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon.

With regard to the Gulf crisis, we call on the Iraqi Army to withdraw from Kuwait before 15 January to spare its country and the area a war, which, if it takes place, will cause numerous human and material losses.

[Signed] Sincerely, 'Umar Karami.

Karami Views Risks of Army Dispatch to South

NC0801192791 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Following his meeting with UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding today, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami said: The army's dispatch to the south involves several risks which must be removed. There are several armed parties with which an understanding must be reached regarding their withdrawal so that the army can go to the area alone and establish security. The Lebanese Government—and this is its legitimate right—will continue to support the resistance until Israel withdraws to the border line.

UN Envoy Supports Deployment

NC0901065191 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] The Lebanese Government continues its efforts to secure the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 which calls for Israel's complete and unconditional withdrawal from the border strip. In this regard, UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding held a series of talks with Lebanese officials immediately after arriving in Beirut yesterday. He met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, and Ministers

Nabih Birri and Faris Buwayz. Goulding is due to inspect the UN forces in al-Naqrurah today.

In press statements issued after yesterday's meetings, Goulding said there are no obstacles to the renewal of the UN forces' mandate in the south. He pointed out that this issue will be decided by the UN Security Council by the end of the month.

Reacting to the Lebanese Government's decision to send the Army to the south, Goulding said: We have always believed that the Army's deployment in the south is an extremely important step toward consolidating the Lebanese Government's authority there. We support this step, and this is part of the UN forces' mission.

For his part, Prime Minister Karami said Goulding's visit is significant as it comes to support the cabinet's decision to dispatch Army units to Iqlim al-Tuffah, al-Nabatiyah, and the coastal area. He described this decision as a first step toward implementing Resolution 425. Prime Minister Karami noted that the Army's dispatch to the south is fraught with risks which should be eliminated, adding that an understanding must be reached with the armed groups there so that the Army can establish security in the area.

Officials Discuss Gulf, Army With U.S. Envoy

NC0801184591 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] A meeting was held at the temporary presidential office at 1600 today attended by President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Minister of State Nabih Birri, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, Foreign Ministry Secretary General Suhayl Shammass, and U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker. The discussion dealt with the situation in the Gulf area and the deployment of the Lebanese army in the South.

After the meeting, which lasted until 1715, Crocker said that a broad exchange of views on several issues, particularly the situation in the Gulf, took place during the meeting. Asked whether he has received any specific request from Lebanon regarding the army's deployment in the south, he said: We of course support the legitimate Lebanese authority and the Lebanese Army. The decision to deploy the Army anywhere is a Lebanese decision.

Islamic Resistance Reacts to Lahd's Statements

NC0501091891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Media sources have said that the Islamic resistance responded to the recent Zionist attacks on the struggling villages of western al-Biq'a' by rocketing the barracks of agent Lahd's militia in al-Rayhan. Eight militiamen were killed or injured in the attack. Four dead militiamen were evacuated to the occupied homeland. Four injured personnel were evacuated to Marj 'Uyun hospital, two of them in serious condition.

A responsible source of the Islamic resistance has commented on the statements by the man in charge of the border strip gangs, Antoine Lahd, in connection with the Army's deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The source said: Such statements smacking of agency and treason are hardly surprising when made by people who have sold themselves to the Zionists. These empty threats are nothing but an echo of the Zionist position supported by the U.S. Administration.

The source added, the Army, whose deployment we have endorsed, will simply support the resistance in liberating the land, eradicating the germ of treason, and expelling the invaders from the occupied territories and with them the likes of Lahd and his mercenaries.

The Islamic resistance, the source said, will remain an irritant in the eyes of the agents and their masters as well as a bulwark against the U.S. and Zionist designs.

The source added: The new government should react to these statements with a clear and unambiguous position. The government should take a courageous stand vis-a-vis this traitor, put him on trial, and pass on him the just sentence that suits everyone who sells himself, his dignity, and his homeland to the enemy. This would be the sign of a true resolve to liberate the South and to confront the Zionist designs.

Chamber Speaker Returns From Damascus Talks

NC0601180691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni visited Damascus yesterday and held talks with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam dealing with the current political situation. Al-Husayni returned to Beirut today.

UN Evacuating Families From Israel to Cyprus

NC0701124091 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Timor Goksel, official spokesman of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], has stated that the United Nations has made a voluntary decision to move UNIFIL civilian employees' families who are residing in the occupied Palestinian territories to Cyprus. Goksel said that this measure will not affect UNIFIL's work in southern Lebanon.

VOM Reports Arrival of Palestinian Deportees

NC0801132191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces deported four Palestinians to Lebanon this morning. They entered through the Zummarayya crossing accompanied by a number of occupation troops. The deportees are Khidr Khalid al-Za'but, 'Imad al-'Alami, Mustafa Yusuf al-Liddawi, and Mustafa Ahmad [name indistinct].

Troops Set Up Barricades, Kill Syrian Soldier

NC0801140691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Excerpt] According to press reports, the [Lebanese] Forces have reestablished armed barricades in al-Karantina area on the pretext of defending the war council [building] and enforcing security around it.

The newspaper AL-LIWA' reported today that personnel at these barricades, which cover all intersections and roads leading to the war council, stop and search cars and check people's identity papers on the pretext that Ja'ja' is going to his office at the council building.

According to security sources, the Lebanese Forces security apparatus set up observation points along the coast and instituted foot and mechanized patrols around the war council.

Meanwhile, in yet another terrorist act perpetrated by the Lebanese Forces gangs, reliable reports say that a taxi driver abducted two Syrian soldiers who were traveling in his taxi and took them to al-Ashrafiyah, where Lebanese Forces personnel rushed to fire on them. One of the soldiers was martyred and the other was paralyzed. The same reports add that the Lebanese Forces arrested a number of citizens and took them to their prisons, where they were tortured. These citizens were not released until interventions on various levels had taken place.

The reports also said that the incident in al-Dubayyah two days ago was provoked by a member of al-Jumayyil family. He harassed some party members, which developed into an hour-long clash. Several people have been arrested. They admitted that the Lebanese Forces are preparing for an operation against Nationalist Party members and Syrian posts and soldiers. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Najibullah Issues Local Election Decrees

LD0801235191 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] The press office of the presidency reported to the BIA that esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has issued the following decrees on the convocation of the election of delegates to local councils and Kabul city's ward councils:

1. In accordance with the provision of Article 31 of the Municipality Law, the two-day election of delegates for the councils of 11 wards of Kabul city shall be convened in the middle of Hout [20 January] in the current year.
2. On the basis of Article 25 of the Municipalities Law, the Council of Ministers is being commissioned to determine and announce within 10 days the composition of election commissions headed by the presiding judges of Kabul city and its wards.
3. The elected commissions shall determine the number of delegates in the wards and municipality of Kabul city in accordance with Article 33 of the Municipalities Law.
4. In order to supervise the election proceedings, subordinate commissions, headed by the competent delegates from Kabul's provincial court, shall be created.
5. The Supreme Court of the Republic of Afghanistan and the court of Kabul city shall cooperate in selecting judges to take part in the composition of subordinate commissions.
6. The Council of Ministers is authorized to select other members of the subordinate commissions in accordance with Paragraph 3, Article 34 of the Municipalities Law.
7. The ward board, three days after the election of delegates for the ward board, shall elect their representatives to the Municipality Council.
8. The Municipality Council, three days after the election of ward councils, in its first session shall appoint the mayor, assistant mayor, secretaries and the members of the Municipality Board in accordance with Article 73 of the Municipalities Law.
9. The election commissions are bound to execute their duties concerning the convocation and proceedings of the elections in accordance with the Municipalities Law.
10. This decree shall be announced publicly on the basis of Article 82 of the Municipalities Law.

(Signed) Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Najibullah Approves Resolutions on Land, Military

LD0901100291 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0421 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 8, BAKHTAR—As per item 2nd, Article 75 of the Constitution, Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA), has approved a resolution of the National Assembly "parliament" on the amendment of Article 86 of law on the regulation of land relations adopted by the assembly on November 4, 1990 as well as its approval by the house of Senate on November 20, 1990, the presidential press office said to BAKHTAR on January 7, 1991.

Also, by issuing separate decrees the Afghan leader has approved resolutions of the National Assembly on the (?addition) of 3 and 4 items in the Article 18 of law of the rights and responsibilities of the defenders of the country and item number 4 of law on orders, medals and honorary titles of the Republic of Afghanistan lately.

Khaliqyar on Joint Projects With India

BK0601093891 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] India and Afghanistan have identified several joint venture projects for immediate implementation and mutual benefit. Talking to visiting Indian newsmen in Kabul, the Afghan prime minister, Mr. Fazil Haq Khaliqyar, disclosed that the projects will cover a wide range of subjects widening the economic cooperation between the two countries. The prime minister said trade and economic cooperation figured prominently during the talks he had with the Indian commerce minister, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, who visited Kabul last week. Mr. Khaliqyar also welcomed the suggestion for opening branches of Indian banks at Kabul and also Afghan banks at New Delhi to facilitate bilateral trade.

Bangladesh

Corruption Charges Filed Against Ershad

BK0801160091 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] The Anticorruption Department has lodged another case against deposed President Ershad, charging him with the misuse of power and embezzlement of huge public fund. The case was filed with Cantonment Thana [police station] today. It is a second case against Ershad who is now interned in a Gulshan house along with his wife. The first case was lodged with the same police station on Saturday [5 January], charging Ershad with possessing unauthorized weapons at his official residence.

Pro-Ershad Coup Failed Due to Army Opposition

BK0801101291 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES
in English 8 Jan 91 p 24

[From D. Sen]

[Text] Dhaka—Whatever the controversy over the number of successful or abortive military coups that Bangladesh has seen—18 or 20—the tally should now go up by one. Before President Ershad stepped down on Dec. 6 yet another coup attempt had been aborted.

For the record, Major General Rafiqul Islam, commanding the 9th Division headquartered at Savar, 40 kilometres north of Dhaka, had planned to lead a force to the capital apparently to rescue a desperate Gen. Ershad who had sought his help. But, knowledgeable circles in Dhaka affirm, the real intention of Maj-Gen. Islam was to seize power, certain in his conviction that Gen. Ershad's unpopularity and the engulfing chaos would work out in his favour.

Gen. Islam was prevented from carrying out his plan—of moving three battalions to Dhaka as a first step—by a stern warning from the Chief of General Staff, Lt-Gen. Salam, that no troop movement in the country could take place except with his consent, and by the Air Force threat that its jets would strafe if the Savar forces were to advance toward the capital. That was the end of the General's ambition, and the beginning of trouble for him. Dhaka is agog with stories about the impending action against the commander which, if nothing else, would at least take the form of an ignominious transfer.

In Bangladesh's 20-year history, the 9th Division has a special status. Its commander is always the most favourite officer of the top executive of the country, especially if he is a soldier-turned-politician. Gen Ziaur Rahman had given this post to his then best friend, Maj-Gen. Abul Manzoor, until he was sent out to Chittagong when Zia began to suspect his loyalty. Even the successor, Maj-Gen. Mir Shaukat Ali, a freedom-fighter like Zia and Manzoor, was not trusted by Zia beyond a point, and was forced out of the country with a diplomatic assignment to Cairo.

Maj. Gen. Rafiqul Islam was given the coveted post because his loyalty to Gen. Ershad had been tested. This, ironically, proved to be his undoing, as most of the top brass of the Bangladesh Army suspected his intentions, and did not buy his story that the three battalions he was planning to move to Dhaka were for taking part in rehearsals for the Victory Day parade on Dec. 16.

The episode concerning the Savar commander climaxes the series of developments that establishes the fact that the Bangladesh Army does not intend to intervene in national politics. An important component of the Army Chief's decision to stay his hand after Ershad's plea to the cantonment for help is the virtual refusal of all middle-level officers—the lieutenant colonels commanding units—to get involved in politics. This made a

decision easy for the Chief of General Staff as also the Army Chief, Lt-Gen. Nooruddin Khan, the first engineer-officer to hold the office he is doing.

Observers in Dhaka point out that Gen. Ershad and some other senior officers with political ambitions had not reckoned with the fact that the commanding officers are a product of post-independence Bangladesh. They are in the armed forces in pursuance of an honourable career, and take pride in being thoroughly professional. Two soldier-Presidents of the country, Zia and Ershad, had also made a military career attractive in terms of pay and perks. They would be happy doing their exercises and staff courses, as long as their pay package does not shrink.

The role of the Army during the recent anti-Ershad movement has drawn widespread appreciation. But none is more significant than what Sheikh Hasina Wajed has said about its restraint. The Awami League leader, who is known to fully share her father's aversion of the military, told THE HINDUSTAN TIMES that it was a good sign that the Army had sensed the popular mood and had not attempted to intervene.

Mrs. Wajed was even conciliatory towards the military when she said that the Generals of the Bangladesh Army should not believe those who said that the Awami League was against the military forces. According to her, it was the Awami League, under her father's leadership, which reconstructed the Army virtually from a scratch at the dawn of independence.

However, Mrs. Wajed sounded a note of caution, putting the Bangladesh Army on probation to prove that it had given up political ambitions for good. "One has to be careful about those who have tasted blood once", she says.

In spite of this caution, it is clear that most Awami Leaguers would like to establish a rapport with the military, and forget past bitterness. And, such desire does not spring only from a strategy to stave off the Army, or persuade it to distance itself from national politics.

The Awami League cannot wish the Army away, however, professional it might have become, because of two factors. A certain degree of religious motivation is imbued in the kind of training that is imparted to the officers and men. This makes them good listeners to the exhortations of the Jamaat-e-Islami, and to the narrow nationalistic rhetoric of the Freedom Party, which Sheikh Mujib's killers and former soldiers, Farouk and Rasheed, lead.

But more than this, the Awami League's principal rival, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, not only has a constituency among the military officers, the BNP itself is run by a "brain trust" consisting almost entirely of former officers. Although Mrs. Khaleda Zia, widow of the BNP's founder, General Ziaur Rahman, heads the party, all major decisions are taken by a group of five such men.

Zia's "panj piaras" are, Maj. Gen. Majedul Haq, Colonel Mustafizur Rahman, Colonel Oli Ahmed, Brigadier Hannan Shah, and Lt.-Gen. Mir Shaukat Ali—all retired. Majedul and Mustafizur Rahman have been ministers in the Zia Cabinet. Oli Ahmed was actively associated with Zia during the freedom movement.

Although Oli Ahmed, as a close confidant, has enjoyed Zia's and Khaleda's trust in party matters, President Zia had a special reason to appoint Col. Mustafizur Rahman as the Home Minister in his Government. The Colonel was the officer who functioned as the prosecutor in the Agartala conspiracy case against Sheikh Mujibur Rahman during the 1960s. When Bangladesh was liberated, he was virtually cashiered by Sheikh Mujib. Zia could find no better incumbent in the Home Ministry who could, to use a Pakistan Army jargon of 1971, "sort out" the Awami Leaguers for his benefit.

India

Shekhar Discusses Amending Constitution for Punjab

BK0901130491 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] The center is working on a comprehensive action plan for revamping the administration in Punjab. This was disclosed by the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, while addressing the parliamentary consultative committee of the Home Ministry in New Delhi today. He said the action plan has already been introduced in Chandigarh and will be extended to Ludhiana, Jullundur, and other affected areas by this weekend. Mr. Chandra Shekhar expressed his deep anguish over last night's killings of innocent people in Ludhiana District.

Allaying members' fears on his talks with the Akali leader, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, the prime minister said there was no mention of Article 51 of the Constitution in his memorandum. He said Mr. Mann has been told categorically that talks will be held within the purview of the Constitution. He however said the Constitution could be suitably amended to provide for more autonomy if all other political parties cooperate in the matter.

On Assam, the prime minister said the efforts of the government are to hold elections in the state at the earliest, possibly by the middle of April, provided the ground situation improves.

About Tamil Nadu, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the center has no intention to disturb the state government. But on the whole, the attitude on the part of the Tamil Nadu Government is not satisfactory.

The members of the committee, expressing their serious concern over the deteriorating communal situation in the country, suggested the formation of a composite force to tackle communal riots. A suggestion was also made for early convening of the National Integration Council.

Shekhar Speaks on Planned Industrial Policy

BK0501094691 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister has said that a new industrial policy will be finalized in the next session of Parliament. Mr. Chandra Shekhar, who also holds the industry portfolio, was addressing the consultative committee of the ministry in New Delhi yesterday. He said the liberalization policy will be continued and efforts will be for transfer of technology from abroad. The policy will not allow duplication of technology. He said priority sectors will not be allowed to suffer because of shortage of petroleum products.

House Speaker Ignores Disqualification Ruling

BK0901122491 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] The Lok Sabha today suspended the question hour and is now discussing an adjournment motion on protection of the authority of the speaker under the anti-defection law from the jurisdiction of the courts. The motion was moved by the leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani, after the speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, informed the house of his decision to ignore the Delhi High Court order on the disqualification issue. The court yesterday ordered a stay in the disqualification proceedings against 37 Janata Dal-S members before the speaker. Mr. Advani took strong exception to the government's affidavit filed before the court that the speaker's power of disqualification is amenable to judicial review. He charged the government with failure to protect the privileges and dignity of parliament and the speaker. A senior Congress-I member described as unfortunate the stand taken by the government and said it needs to be reversed.

Speaking from the treasury benches, the textiles minister, Mr. Hukumdev Narain Yadav, maintained that they will accept with full respect whatever ruling is given by the speaker. However, he questioned the motivation of those who, he said, are making an issue about the dignity of the chair for the sake of self-interest. He emphasized that three organs of democracy—the executive, the judiciary, and the legislature—should treat each other with mutual respect. Any attempt to denigrate one will lead to disastrous consequences. He emphasized that the Janata Dal-S is the product of a split as any such splits in political parties in the past. The minister observed that those who speak about non-interference between judiciary and legislature do not understand the social and political change the country is undergoing. Mr. Yadav's remarks were punctuated by noisy protests from the opposition and several points of order. Opposition members urged the speaker to announce his decision on the disqualification issue before the end of the session. They pointed out that the speaker's powers to disqualify a member are under the 10th Schedule of the Constitution and not justiciable.

Earlier, Mr. Rabi Ray informed the house that he is ignoring the court order following the unanimous opinion of the floor leaders of various parties whom he met in his chamber this morning. The speaker directed the suspension of the question hour for taking up of the adjournment motion following a vociferous demand by most of the opposition.

The house has been informed that the government is seeking immediate adjournment of the disqualification case before the Delhi High Court. The law and justice minister, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, told the Lok Sabha a short while ago that he is calling the concerned officers to give them his direction to be conveyed to the court on the need for adjournment till the parliament takes a decision.

Legislators Criticize Commerce Minister Actions

*BK0801161291 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Jan 91*

[Text] The Lok Sabha witnessed uproarious scenes over the opposition's accusation that the commerce minister, Mr. Subramaniam Swamy, has flouted the collective responsibility of the Cabinet in an interview given to the FINANCIAL TIMES of London. Raising the issue during zero hour, Mrs. Subashini Ali of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] said Dr. Swamy had called the recent imposition of certain taxes by the finance minister as a panic reaction and promised to get the decision reversed after India gets an IMF loan. Mr. Jaswant Singh of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] referred to another interview given by Dr. Swamy to an Ahmedabad daily in which the commerce minister had reportedly claimed agreement on an IMF loan for a specific amount would be signed on a specific date.

There was also an accusation that Dr. Swamy had a meeting with his Israeli counterpart in Brussels, even though New Delhi does not have diplomatic relations with that country.

The prime minister said he had already spoken to Dr. Swamy who has categorically denied the newspaper reports. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said members should not go by press reports which are not always correct. He assured the members that if any minister violates the collective responsibility of the Cabinet, he will be brought to book.

About Dr. Swamy's meeting with his Israeli counterpart, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said during the GATT talks in Brussels a dinner was arranged where all delegates sat in an alphabetical order and there is nothing more to it.

Amidst noisy scenes, the speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, ruled that after the prime minister's statement he was treating the matter as closed. However, opposition members insisted that Dr. Swamy, who was present in the house, should himself deny the press reports.

Review of Petroleum Allotments Announced

*BK0901040491 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 9 Jan 91*

[Text] The petroleum minister has announced that the government has undertaken a review of various schemes for the allotment of LPG [liquefied petroleum gas] and petroleum product agencies. Replying to supplementaries in the Lok Sabha, Mr. S.P. Malaviya said the previous government prepared no scheme for the allotment of these agencies to unemployed youths except doing some loud thinking. [sentence as heard]

Oil Conservation Week Observed From 7 Jan

*BK0601160091 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 6 Jan 91*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has appealed to the people to wholeheartedly adopt measures to conserve petroleum products. In a message on the eve of oil conservation week beginning tomorrow, he said this is the time for all of us to display a great sense of responsibility in the use and conservation of petroleum products. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said to overcome the present difficult position, it has become more necessary than ever before to make an all-out effort to conserve petroleum products to the maximum possible. The oil conservation week is being observed to focus the importance of the problem, he said.

During the week a number of activities and functions have been planned all over the country by the oil industry and other organizations. These include exhibitions, workshops and debate highlighting the grave situation. State governments and public sector undertakings are also organizing similar (methods) to propagate the measures of conservation of petroleum products.

Implementation of Court's Shrine Verdict Urged

*BK0601050091 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 6 Jan 91*

[Text] The president of the Indian Union Muslim League, Mr. Ibrahim Sulaiman Seth, has said if a negotiated settlement is not possible on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issue the state government should implement the court's verdict on the matter. Mr. Seth was addressing a news conference in Kanpur yesterday. He accused the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and its affiliated organizations of trying to achieve political gain by communal riots.

Twelve Persons 'Massacred' by Gunmen in Punjab

*BK0901035691 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 9 Jan 91*

[Text] In Punjab, 12 persons were massacred by unidentified gunmen near village Gil in Ludhiana District last night. According to an official spokesman the crime came to light when security forces signalled a van to stop at a check post and some occupants ran away. On search

of the van, two persons with their hands and legs tied were recovered. They said 12 persons have been killed in village Gil. The security forces in the state have been alerted and a massive search has been launched.

Cease-Fire Prospects in Sri Lanka Reviewed

BK0701130091 Delhi General Overseas Service
in English 1010 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Karuppasamy commentary]

[Text] The unilateral declaration of cease-fire by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] in Sri Lanka from the 1st of this month and the weeklong suspension of offensive by the government forces is a big solace to the war-ravaged people of the island. Whatever the shape of opinion may be, the declaration of cease-fire has been widely welcomed except by some people of extreme views. This was borne out by the prompt response of the government which convened a meeting of all political parties to discuss the implications of the LTTE offer. The meeting was followed by the government's announcement of the interim measure of suspension of offensive operations. The government is to review the situation for further extension of the suspension on next Thursday [10 January] if there will be continuing adherence to the conditions that govern the cease-fire.

There is cautious optimism on the likely outcome of the current discussion for a peaceful settlement of the ethnic problems, because of the stance taken by the LTTE on one hand and the Tamil political parties and the government on the other hand on certain basic issues that have plunged the country into confusion and misery. People in general doubt the integrity of the Tigers in following and implementing any agreement that may be arrived at. There is a feeling that the peace declaration announced by the LTTE spokesman Sathasivam Krishna Kumar alias Kittu may not be genuine and without the backing of the LTTE leadership. The second point of doubt is the reason for the sudden desire for peace on the part of the Tigers. It is widely argued that it was not the concern of the Tamil people that motivated the LTTE to declare a cease-fire as was made out by Mr. Krishna Kumar. The real reasons that prompted the LTTE to declare cease-fire are the adverse reaction building up against them in Tamil Nadu, the loss of international support, internal dissension, and the rain that flooded their bunkers.

Whatever it is, the cease-fire is generally acceptable to all. But the real crux of the problem is the issues put forward by the LTTE for recognition by the Sri Lankan Government that the formation of a Tamil National Army, the right of self-determination for Tamils, and the northeast as traditional Tamil homeland [as heard]. In fact, two of the basic issues of conditions have been in the shopping list of the LTTE and for that matter many Tamil groups for quite some time. The formation of a Tamil Army stands practically achieved with the militants operating as an armed force though the government has not recognized it. The other two issues—

self-determination and homeland—are not likely to be recognized at all by the government for various reasons. If the LTTE insists that the two issues are non-negotiable then the ongoing discussions to find a peaceful solution will be an exercise in futility.

The concept and idea of a Tamil Eelam has been categorically rejected by the government supported by all the parties with the exception of a few Tamil groups. The political parties led by the main opposition Sri Lankan Federal Party abstained from attending the meeting last Thursday as the LTTE demands were not acceptable to them. They made it clear that if the northeast is carved out, 61 percent of the country's coastal line and many important socioeconomic bases will go to Tamils. This (?stops) all the hope of the LTTE for a separate state for the Tamils. The territorial integrity is non-negotiable for non-Tamil and Muslim parties and the Sinhalese people of the South. One could easily imagine the magnitude of the task of compromising the two irreconcilable and diametrical approach camps.

Another thorny issue is the laying down of arms by the LTTE as demanded by the government. The LTTE spokesman, who declared the cease-fire, made it clear that the question of laying down arms is not going to take place in the history of the Tigers. If Colombo finds out why LTTE took an armed struggle, it will understand why the Tigers refuse to lay down arms, he said. The question is whether the type of violence occurring in Sri Lanka could have been avoided by taking timely action for democratic process by giving equality of status to all ethnic groups. It was high time, that all the responsible people make a sincere and last ditch effort to salvage the situation taking advantage of the cease-fire for a permanent and lasting peace. If this chance is missed, the history of Sri Lanka will record one more opportunity lost.

Paper Decries International Apathy Toward Burma

BK0801135291 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES
in English 31 Dec 90 p 11

[Editorial: "When the People of Burma Need Support"]

[Text] By arresting opposition leaders in a vain attempt to prevent the formation of a government in exile, the military junta of Burma (Myanmar) has only indicated its refusal to see the writing on the wall. The eight-member coalition government set up under Sein Win at the Karen National Union headquarters at Manerplaw, on the Burma-Thai border, should help to serve two purposes. First, it would rekindle hope among the masses of people in Burma that the fight for securing democratic rights would be extended and intensified. Secondly, the government in exile should make it easier for the international community to extend more openly its moral and material support to the democratic movement in Myanmar. As far as the people of Burma are concerned they have already made an exemplary contribution to earn their rights by sacrificing 3,000 lives to military

bullets since 1988. They followed up their massive rejection of the military rule by electing 392 members of Parliament out of 485 for which contest was held in the May 27 election. Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy polled 75 per cent of the votes. By contrast, the military-sponsored National Unity Party won a mere ten seats. In deciding not to honour the people's verdict, the military junta has opted for buying time, but is unlikely to avoid inevitable retribution.

Clearly, the international community has a duty to lessen the agony of the people of Burma. It is rather frustrating to witness the cynical unconcern in many countries to the Burmese people's struggle for democracy, especially when one bastion of dictatorship after another has been crumbling around the world. It is necessary to realise that just the display of a measure of annoyance and disgust is not enough to soften a military dictatorship which has no pretensions of ruling through legitimacy. The withdrawal of economic cooperation with Rangoon was not good enough to bring the ruling Military Council to its senses. It must be made abundantly clear to the junta that unless it relinquishes power to the people's representatives soon, international involvement in some form would become inevitable. If such a message conveyed through diplomatic channels is ignored by Rangoon, friends of the Burmese people should consider sterner alternatives. The fact that the junta spokesman has accused U.S. and Indian missions in Rangoon of involvement with the pro-democracy activists should not deter Washington and New Delhi from pledging their support to the democratic movement in Burma. Washington's lead in the matter would release other Western governments from their hesitation to put pressure on the Military Council. Nearer home, Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar must also be aware of the expectations from his government, particularly in the background of his vociferous support to the pro-democracy movement in Nepal.

Iran

Iraq's Ibrahim, Vice President Habibi Meet

JN0801163491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT
8 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Tehran, 8 Jan (INA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], arrived in Tehran today leading a delegation on a visit of several days to the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

Mr. Ibrahim expressed his great pleasure at visiting the Islamic Republic of Iran at this stage and under these circumstances, after a long break in the exchange of visits and activation of the genuine fraternal relations between Iraq and Iran.

He thanked Mr. Hasan Habibi for inviting him to visit Iran and said in a press statement: My visit is in line with the new circumstances that have been made possible,

thanks to God's help after the sedition and the rift between the two sisterly Muslim neighbors.

The RCC vice chairman said: The aims of the visit can be summed up in the willingness of the members of the delegation and I to underline, in the name of the Iraqi leadership, President Saddam Husayn, and the Iraqi people, our deep eagerness for a speedy return of the fraternal relations between the two neighboring Muslim countries to their old status. We firmly believe that Iraqi-Iranian relations based on the deep-rooted historical background of the two neighboring Muslim peoples can bring all good, well-being, and progress for our countries and the peoples of the region and can preserve our important and vital region from the designs of the villain, oppressor, covetous, and arrogant Americans, Zionists, and their allies.

Asked about the expected results of the Geneva talks between the foreign ministers of Iraq and the United States, Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim said: It appears from the statements we hear from U.S. President Bush and his secretary of state that they want the meeting to serve as a means to justify their aggressive position. So far, they have been repeating statements to the effect that the objective of the meeting is to convey a message to the Iraqi president, not to hold talks, when it is assumed and required that negotiations and talks be held to discuss the details of the current situation in the Middle East, and the Gulf in particular. The Americans are expected to use the meeting as a means to justify further intransigence, arrogance, and hostility toward Iraq and the region.

Mr. Ibrahim spoke about Iraq's principled position and said that we are fighting and struggling for peace, and that we are trying to use all our capacity to achieve the principles of peace. However, if war is imposed on us, we are fully ready to confront and harm the aggressor.

Mr. Hasan Habibi welcomed Ibrahim's visit to Iran and told the INA correspondent that we hope through the visit to reach final solutions to the remaining issues concerning the relations between the two countries.

He said that Ibrahim's visit to Tehran will provide a chance for studying the affairs of the region, and "we will try to act in a manner that serves Muslims and the Islamic world, and decide the region's issues accordingly."

Iraq To Resist 'Bullying'

LD0801174891 Tehran IRNA in English 1552 GMT
8 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 8, (iRNA)—Vice Charman of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council 'Izzat Ibrahim said here Tuesday that Baghdad was prepared to confront U.S. aggression. Asked by IRNA on the planned meeting in Geneva between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, Ibrahim accused

the Americans of planning to exploit the meeting as a means for their own aggressive ends.

Ibrahim, who arrived here this morning at the head of a high-ranking delegation, thought that the Americans would use the meeting as a cover to justify what he called "their further aggression and bullying acts" against Iraq.

"If war is imposed on us we are fully prepared to encounter any aggression and to hurt the enemy," he warned.

The Iraqi official said his country's position was based on peace and that Iraqi officials were trying to do all within their power for "materialization of peace".

Ibrahim was pleased with his first ever visit to Tehran, following Iraq's acceptance of Iran's terms for peace August last, and reiterated the Iraqi leadership's emphasis on "expanding the brotherly relations between the two neighboring Muslim nations."

Iran's First Vice President Hasan Habibi, who received the Iraqi delegation at Mehrabad International Airport, appreciated Ibrahim's trip, and said "We will discuss ways of putting into effect a comprehensive peace between Iran and Iraq as well as regional issues in our meeting."

He expressed hope "we will hold the negotiations well and the results of these talks will be in the interest of the Muslim world but against global arrogance."

Ibrahim's delegation consists of Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs Muhammad Sa'id Al-Sahaf and Minister of Transport and Communications Muhammad Hamza al-Zubaydi.

'Strategic Relations' Stressed

JN0801213691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2018 GMT
8 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, 8 Jan (INA)—Iraqi-Iranian talks began in Tehran this evening. The Iraqi side was headed by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman, while the Iranian side was headed by Hasan Habibi, first vice president.

The Iraqi side to the talks included Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister; Muhammad Hamzah, minister of transport and communications; Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs; and a number of officials at the National Assembly and the ministries of foreign affairs, trade, and oil.

The Iranian side included Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia, minister of roads and transport; Mohajerani, deputy president; and a number of Shura Council members and other officials.

An atmosphere of joint desire for action to expedite the normalization of relations between the two Muslim neighbors prevailed during the meeting. There has also

been a joint desire to complete the requirements of a comprehensive peace between them, and the need to provide security and stability in the Middle East in general and the Gulf region in particular, away from the intervention of foreign powers that do not care about the interests of the region and its people.

In a speech during the session, 'Izzat Ibrahim expressed thanks for the good hospitality and generosity which he and the accompanying delegation have been accorded since their arrival in Iran.

He said: We believe that Iraqi-Iranian relations constitute the main key to resolving all problems in both the Gulf and the Middle East regions in the service of the objectives of the two countries.

Addressing the Iranian officials, 'Izzat Ibrahim added: Our visit to your esteemed country at this stage and on this level has come to affirm our desire to continue brotherly meetings to tackle all problems and expedite the normalization of relations between the two countries.

He affirmed: We hope that we will be able to lay a solid foundation for strategic relations between Iraq and Iran, so as to achieve the interests of the peoples of the two countries and the aspirations of the area peoples for security, stability, and peace.

At the beginning of the talks, Hasan Habibi welcomed 'Izzat Ibrahim and the accompanying delegation, expressing hope that the visit would yield fruitful results.

He said we are pleased with the visit, and interested in the normalization of relations between the two countries in order to reach a comprehensive peace.

Before the session, RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim held a closed meeting with Hasan Habibi, vice president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Hasan Habibi, first vice president of the Islamic Republic of Iran held a grand dinner banquet in honor of RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and the accompanying delegation.

The banquet was attended by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and members of both delegations to the talks.

Additional Issues Discussed

LD0901112391 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT
9 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA—First Vice-President Hassan Habibi and the visiting Iraqi Vice-Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council 'Izzat Ibrahim held their first round of talks here Tuesday evening.

Issues discussed included normalization of relations, Iran-Iraq peace, pilgrims' visits to holy shrines in the two countries, exchange of the remaining war prisoners, speeding up border demarcation, dredging of the Arvand

river and complete implementation of the U.N. resolution 598 and the 1975 accord.

It was decided in the meeting that members of both delegations meet in the coming days and report results of their talks.

The two sides also discussed the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region and expressed their views in this connection.

'Izzat Ibrahim heading a high-ranking delegation including Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hamadi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahaf, Minister of Transport and Communications Muhammad Hamazah al-Zubaydi, deputy oil minister and several parliament members arrived here Tuesday.

Iraqi Forces To Withdraw From Remaining Enclaves

*LD0801164791 Tehran IRIB Television Network
in Persian 1600 GMT 8 Jan 91*

[Text] Iranian and Iraqi forces are to withdraw from remaining small pockets of land in each other's territory which they still occupy.

Deputy director of intelligence and operations of the Armed Forces Command-in-Chief headquarters announced that the decision was adopted yesterday at a joint Iranian-Iraqi military delegation session. According to the decision, the two parties' forces will complete their withdrawal from these lands, which total around 40 square kilometers, tomorrow at 1200 noon.

The Iranian and Iraqi forces will meanwhile stay at a distance of one kilometer from the borders of the 1975 agreement. In general a two kilometer buffer zone will be created between the two forces.

Also according to the agreement the Iraqi party will soon hand over detailed maps of the minefields in the regions to the Islamic Republic of Iran so that mines may be cleared.

President Receives Indian Foreign Secretary

*LD0901054991 Tehran IRNA in English 1943 GMT
8 Jan 91*

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 8, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told visiting Indian Foreign Secretary Muchkund Dubey Tuesday that the recent violence erupted between Hindu extremists and Muslims was against New Delhi's interests lying in its ties with Muslim states.

The president also expressed hope that the troubles fomented in India would be brought under control and be fairly settled so that obstacles that may arise in India's ties with Islamic countries could be removed.

"Once Indian Muslims feel safer, the Islamic world's cooperation with India will increase more than ever before and this is useful to all," Rafsanjani made it clear.

Dubey said in response that the Indian government very well understood the concern of the Iranian government and nation about the communal clashes in India, believing that such a concern was quite right.

He said if the New Delhi government failed to stop the clashes between varying communities its national unity would be endangered seriously.

Referring to the recent international developments, the Indian official called for further cooperation between India and the Islamic Republic which he said enjoyed an important position in the region and the world.

Dubey, who arrived here on January 6, reiterated the Indian government and people attached great importance to their historical ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

To Supply Oil To India

*BK0801155891 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Jan 91*

[Text] Iran will supply more oil to India to tide over difficulties created by the Gulf crisis. This was agreed to at a meeting between the Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the Foreign Secretary Mr. Muchkund Dubey in Tehran today.

Foreign Affairs Minister Receives Kuwaiti Cleric

*LD0801192791 Tehran IRIB Television Network
in Persian 1600 GMT 8 Jan 91*

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin Seyyed Mohammad Baqir Mofid, one of the struggling ulema of Kuwait, met Mr. Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, today. The two held talks.

In the meeting he presented a report on the internal situation in Kuwait and on migrant Kuwaitis in Iran. He said: We offer our gratitude for the hospitality and the clear and decisive positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Persian Gulf crisis. We hope the Kuwaitis will be able to return to their own homeland as soon as possible.

Explaining the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region, Mr. Velayati expressed the hope that through the restoration of stability and security to the region, its resources can then be utilized for the development of region and in the interest of Muslim nations.

Resumption of Ties With Amman Said 'Under Study'

*LD0801182191 Tehran IRNA in English 1727 GMT
8 Jan 91*

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 8, IRNA—Iran on Tuesday [8 January] reacted positively to Jordan's desire for resumption of diplomatic ties between Tehran and Amman, severed since January 1981.

The welcome came by an informed source at the Foreign Ministry who was commenting on the recent statements of the Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran in which he expressed desire to resume ties with Iran. The spokesman said Badran's remarks would accelerate the trend of re-establishment of bilateral ties.

He also said the Jordanian foreign minister had already voiced interest in the restoration of Iran-Jordan ties in a meeting with visiting Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati during the 45th U.N. General-Assembly meet in New York in September.

"The issue of resumption of ties is under study with a positive outlook in view of the repeated demands made by Jordanian religious, popular and parliamentary groups during their visits to Iran," he said.

Commentary Urges Iraq To Withdraw From Kuwait

LD0801135991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1108 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings dear listeners. At around noon today a high-ranking Iraqi political delegation headed by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice president and Iraq's [Revolution] Command Council vice chairman, arrived in Tehran to hold talks with Islamic Republic of Iran officials.

During its three-day stay in Tehran the Iraqi political delegation will talk to our country's authorities about implementing articles of [UN] Resolution 598, expanding bilateral ties, the Iraqi Government's latest position on the Persian Gulf Crisis, and examine peaceful means to resolve the crisis.

After Iraq accepted Iran's conditions the ground work was rapidly laid for implementing the conditions. In addition to realizing a full withdrawal and the exchange of POWs, extensive political links were established between Tehran and Baghdad. The two countries' foreign ministers' visits to Tehran and Baghdad and the resumption of diplomatic relations are some of the results of the recent changes in Iran-Iraq ties.

Notwithstanding the ups and downs of the past, Iran-Iraq ties are important for the two nations from the viewpoint of neighborly and regional relations. In the framework of neighborly relations, the long joint land and sea border and shared religious and cultural features one way or the other entail shared interests and considerations for the two nations. At the same time Iran and Iraq, as two oil producing Persian Gulf littoral OPEC member countries, can jointly pursue common viewpoints. They are two countries with more or less similar economies which rely on oil revenues and face the prospect of reconstructing war-inflicted damage.

Discussion and debate on the Persian Gulf crisis and regional security possess great importance for a country

like Iran. Any developments in this region will be watched with full attention. The thing which strengthens all these points is the increased presence of foreign countries in this region. Compared to the past the military presence and political intervention of Western countries in the region has increased, and there is open talk of a long-term presence of U.S. troops. All of this is being justified in light of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

Since Iran wants to have good relations with its neighbors it welcomes Iraq's efforts to improve bilateral relations. At the same time Iran considers the presence of U.S. forces to be inimical to its own security and national interests, and the excuse for the presence of those forces is the occupation of Kuwait. Because it views the continued occupation of Kuwait as a threat to peace and security in the region, Iran wants Iraqi forces to withdraw from Kuwait—an action which will in any case prevent an intensification of the crisis in the region and a possible military clash. In addition to making repeated contacts, the Islamic Republic of Iran recently proposed that the Islamic Conference Organization should strive for a peaceful resolution for the Persian Gulf crisis.

Commentary Views U.S. Policy in Gulf Crisis

NC0901075691 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0557 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Unattributed political commentary from the "Voice of the Front" feature]

[Text] Political activities connected with the Persian Gulf crisis continue to dominate international news reports. A review of these reports shows that Washington and its Arab allies in the region have not yet been able to achieve a balance in their relations, something which indicates the extent and complicated nature of the crisis.

News agencies report that as the crisis moves toward its culmination, the United States is seeking an increase in the financial assistance Saudi Arabia and Kuwait give to the U.S. forces deployed in the region. During his recent visit to Riyadh, the U.S. vice president told Saudi officials that assistance from the Kuwaiti government-in-exile and the Riyadh government to the U.S. military operations in the region should increase. This White House official told correspondents: They should offer more help because the U.S. military forces may be here longer than expected.

This statement by the U.S. vice president reveals two significant facts. The first is that the White House official's indirect reference to a long-term Western military presence shows the West's long-term objectives in the region. The second is Washington's intention to use the economic resources of the regional Arab countries, and especially of the Governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, to fulfill its long-term objectives.

This situation will have two marked outcomes for the United States. In the first stage, it will be able to prevent

a crisis from arising inside the United States and will use foreign credits for its military buildup. In the second stage, it will use the economic resources of the rich Arab regional governments as much as possible to fulfill its military-political objectives.

Parallel with these remarks by the U.S. vice president, Riyadh officials have stated that the Saudi Government has agreed to increase its financial assistance to the U.S. forces deployed in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the region. News agencies report that in addition to meeting the needs of the U.S. military forces in Saudi Arabia, Riyadh has thus far paid about \$9 billion in cash to the United States and given about \$4 billion in financial aid to regional countries such as Egypt and Turkey that are facing economic losses because of the Persian Gulf crisis.

In tandem with the White House's political overtures in relation with the regional crisis, the opponents of George Bush's policies staged large-scale demonstrations which were confronted severely by the U.S. police. This was the second time opponents of U.S. policies have staged such extensive demonstrations in front of the White House since the Western military buildup in the region began.

In relation with this, it should be noted that the Republican leader in the Senate said in an official statement that the American people are not willing to participate in a bloody war in the Persian Gulf. Senator Robert Dole called on George Bush to do his best to reach an agreement with Iraq on the date for the meeting between high-ranking officials of the two countries. This American official also emphasized, however, that the American people may favor war once the Bush administration has exhausted all paths to peace.

All this shows that the political atmosphere in the West lacks coordination and unity. U.S. policymakers agree on the fact that amid all these activities George Bush should strengthen the U.S. long-term strategy in the region. The major issue is that they want the United States both to be in control of the crisis and to implement all aspects of its strategy without having to fight a war or without having to use its own resources, using instead the vast economic, political, and military resources of the region. This is one of the complicated aspects of the Persian Gulf crisis that is being carefully followed by the West's theoreticians.

Only time will tell which of the political factions inside the U.S. Administration is able to put its ideas into practice. One thing is clear, however, and that is that those who will bear the heaviest burden of the West's militarization policies are the region's Muslim nations.

Goods Storage Offered in 'Protected' Ports

*LD0801121191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 8 Jan 91*

[Text] Following the intensification of the Persian Gulf crisis, and because of repeated requests by merchants and goods owners in the Persian Gulf region states, Iran

announced her readiness to receive and store various goods existing in the region from today.

The director general of Iranian Customs, Mr. Mohammadkhan, in announcing the news this morning to reporters, said: In the implementation of the bill approved by the cabinet on 26 November, in which the Ports and Shipping Organization has been charged with establishing facilities for storing goods belonging to regional states in protected areas of the country, foreign merchants will from today be able to transfer their goods and merchandise to protected areas in Bandar-e Jask, Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni, Bandar-e Bushehr, and Chahabahr without any customs formalities.

He added: The envisaged duration of storing goods in Iran is one year, and is renewable for six months. He pointed out that the import of such goods will not be included in the import and export regulations, and the owners will be able to transfer their goods from Iran to any part in the world. Noting that owners of the merchandise will be able to sell their goods within the country according to the customs regulations, he added: According to the cabinet approval, this guideline is not confined to the present juncture, and in the future, too, foreign merchants will be able to store their goods in Iran.

Then the director general of the Ports and Shipping Organization, speaking to reporters, also announced the readiness of the organization to store goods belonging to the Persian Gulf region states in Iranian port areas, and said: According to the information received, a vast amount of goods exist in stores in Dubai, Bahrain, and Qatar, and the Ports and Shipping Organization is ready to create safe storage for those goods in the stores—open and covered spaces in the ports in the protected areas of Iran.

Deputy Foreign Minister on Visit to France

*NC0501110491 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 22 Dec 90 p 2*

[Report by the news section]

[Text] After his return from visiting France, Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Mahmud Va'ez was interviewed by our correspondent and spoke about solving financial differences between the two countries. He said: Despite their ups and downs during the past decade, relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and France entered a new phase after Mr. Velayati's visit to Paris. In the future we will be witnessing further expansion of these relations.

During this interview Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Va'ez spoke about the reasons he extended his stay in Paris after Mr. Velayati left. He said: The reason I extended my stay in Paris was that during their meetings with Mr. Velayati the French prime minister and foreign minister emphasized, "It is better for your representative

to stay in France in order to solve the financial differences more quickly." Also, another reason was the emphasis that other French officials placed on their wish to solve these differences.

He added: First of all, in their meetings with Mr. Velayati, the high-ranking French officials expressed their wish for a rapid solution of financial differences. Second, understanding was reached between the two sides on how the differences should be solved.

On the two countries' financial differences, Mr. Va'ez said: In the past, the method used to solve differences was to study each and every case separately. But during this round of talks, it was decided to study the case in its entirety. In relation to this, the French undertook to study legal consequences and the file of the consortium, something France had been avoiding until now.

He said that allegations that the recent talks were unsuccessful are not true and added: The opinion that the talks were unsuccessful was probably formed because of the misunderstanding after remarks by the French officials on their wish for a rapid solution of financial differences. But we should confess that differences that have existed for 11 years will naturally need some time and strong political determination to be solved.

On the nature of the differences, he said: The financial differences between the two sides comprise four dossiers, two of which concern the loans extended by Iran (before the revolution) in francs from the [Iranian] Atomic Energy Organization and the dollar loans extended by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance. We had previously reached an agreement on the franc loans, and the French Government has repaid \$630 million of the capital. Currently the Islamic Republic of Iran is asking for the repayment of \$370 million of the capital in addition to the interest. The other two dossiers concern claims by French companies. One of them concerns Eurodif, which had undertaken a uranium enrichment project but had its activities halted after the victory of the Islamic revolution. The other concerns the consortium known as Framatom, which had undertaken the project for electricity generators in the South. This project was also stopped after the victory of the Islamic revolution. With the new method adopted by the two sides for solving the differences, as was pointed out, the two sides will be speaking about one sum only.

In conclusion, he commented on the outlook for relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and France and said: Despite the many ups and downs between the two countries during the past decade, relations entered a new phase after Mr. Velayati's trip to France. During this trip important regional and international issues, as well as bilateral relations, were discussed.

High-ranking French officials have shown their willingness to deepen relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and to lay the foundations for strong political and economic ties. During the visit the two sides emphasized their desire and determination to expand relations in

various dimensions. Also, the grounds for economic cooperation between the two countries in light of France's potential and technology are favorable and as of now, steps have been taken in this direction. It is hoped that with the rapid solution of financial differences, this field will also expand more.

Currently, the Islamic Republic of Iran is the number one oil supplier for France, with more than 13 percent of France's oil imports coming from Iran. France is also involved in various projects in dam construction, petrochemistry, oil, reconstructing the Khark terminal and the Nasr oil platform, and completing the Imam Khomeyni Petrochemical Plant as well as in automobile-building (cooperation between Iran Khodrow Company and Renault and Peugeot). Other fields are also being discussed. It seems that France has well understood the true place of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region and its strategic position.

Paper Urges British To End Support For Rushdie

NC0601100691 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 30 Dec 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Zionists—the Real Supporters of Rushdie"]

[Excerpts] In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

The British have begun a new game regarding the "Rushdie issue." They are attempting to project the image of distancing themselves from the issue in order to save themselves from the fallout of the "Rushdie issue," but they are also tackling the issue from a different standpoint in order to continue harping on the humiliation of this member of the "Royal Society of English Literature."

Rushdie is once again in the news with some interviews. While he claims to have returned to the fold of Islam, he asserts that his book had never intended to insult Islam and should not be considered blasphemous.

If until yesterday the British had been directly involved in the incident, they have now distanced themselves in utter shame and disgrace and have handed over this game to the Zionists and their lackeys.

It is precisely for this reason that the endowments minister of the Camp David regime and the congregational imam in the Saudi mosque in London, who is one of the royal preachers, have entered the arena and pled for saving "Rushdie." However, the more they seek to save Rushdie, the more unsuccessful they are. Why is this?

The reason is obvious. With his insults to the sanctities of the Islamic world, Rushdie has been isolated on a path of no return. Even if he repents, the divine decree passed on him will not change. The principle of this issue was the insult to Islam, and the despicable investment by the

British and the EC in this regard was a political-propagandistic ploy, but they should have pondered the consequences before beginning this abominable game. They should have realized that even with their defeat and humiliation and Rushdie's penitence, the decree of Islam would remain in effect with all its validity. [passage omitted]

Facts and figures prove that right from the outset, the Zionists were involved and have once again entered the arena to help Rushdie and to save him while at the same time endeavoring to capitalize on the issue for propaganda against the Islamic world.

There is much evidence to indicate that the British were actively involved. Naturally, if London wishes to initiate a new game on the issue it is necessary that an approach to make the London government regret its actions should be considered. [passage omitted]

It would be to the London government's advantage to end the game and its support of Rushdie and to leave him to his fate. Naturally, the Muslims will be able to discharge their responsibilities in a better manner. However, in such circumstances, it is possible that the Zionists who are the real supporters of Rushdie may not terminate their support and may continue to tempt the British echelons not to give up this game. [passage omitted]

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

NCP, UNCP Factions Merge for Elections

BK0901004691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1726 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 8 (AFP)—The two major factions of the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) have merged to form the United Nepal Communist Party (UNCP), a party source said Tuesday.

The newly formed party will pose a serious challenge to the pro-democratic Nepali Congress in the nationwide elections expected in April, political observers here said.

The leaders of the Marxist-Leninist and Marxist factions agreed to merge late Monday following several days of intense negotiation, the party source said.

The UNCP together with all other leftist parties in Nepal will field joint candidates in the April polls against the Nepali Congress whose leaders still believe they will win a decisive majority.

The two factions had decided to merge "in accordance with the aspirations of the people," a UNCP press release said.

Japanese Envoy Signs Accord on Aid for Elections

OW0701111991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0954 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan. 7 KYODO—The Japanese Government on Monday agreed to grant 224.7 million yen (51.2 million rupees) to Nepal to help the mountain kingdom carry out its first multiparty elections in 30 years.

Japanese Ambassador to Nepal Kazuaki Arichi signed the grant agreement in Kathmandu Monday.

The grant will be used to purchase vehicles for use in general elections planned for April, according to sources at Nepal's Finance Ministry.

Pakistan

Sharif on Economy, Nuclear Program, Islamic Law

BK0601152491 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has said his government has embarked upon a revolutionary program in various sectors with a view to improve national economy, reduce dependence on foreign aid, and solve the problem of the unemployment. Addressing a big public meeting at (Harinabad) in Bahawalnagar District this afternoon, he declared that nation would not compromise on its peaceful nuclear program which is essential for country's development.

He said the government wanted to impose such laws in the country that may facilitate a person in getting (urgent) and inexpensive justice.

About the shariat law, the prime minister said he will (endeavor) to get consensus on the bill so that views of all sections of the society are duly accommodated.

Selected Industries Given to Private Sector

BK0501131891 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] The federal finance minister, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, has said the government is ready to allow private sector to set up their industrial estates. All existing industrial estates, which are not functioning properly, could be handed over to the private sector to make them viable. He was speaking at the 12th award distribution ceremony of Karachi Stock Exchange in Karachi today. He said that the government was also inducting the private sector in the expansion and modernization of the country's telephone system in a bid to improve infrastructure for industrialization.

In his address of welcome, the president of the Karachi Stock Exchange said that the clearing operations have been fully computerized in keeping with the increasing tempo of investment.

Japan To Provide Debt Relief Grant

BK0901120091 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Japan is to provide Pakistan a debt relief grant of more than 26 million rupees with a view to strengthening friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries. Notes to this effect were signed in Islamabad today by the Japanese ambassador and the secretary in the Economic Affairs Division on behalf of their respective governments. The grant will be used by Pakistan for the purchase of commodities like electric machines, transport equipment, scientific and medical instruments, and other commodities.

Jatoi Alleges Vote 'Rigging' in Elections

BK0501094291 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] In Pakistan, the former caretaker prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has charged that a senior and widely respected politician, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, was defeated in the recent elections due to rigging in a well-planned political conspiracy. Talking to newsmen in Multan, Mr. Jatoi, who was appointed by the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, to monitor the elections, said that several other prominent personalities were also victims of rigging. Mr. Jatoi said he was not in a position to interfere in the election commission's functioning.

Following this disclosure, the former interior minister in Ms. Benazir Bhutto's government, Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan, has demanded the president's resignation, restoration of Ms. Bhutto's government and holding of fresh elections.

Delayed Naming of Vacant Envoy Slots Criticized

BK0801135891 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
8 Jan 90 p 4

[Editorial: "This Won't Do"]

[Text] Foreign Minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has revealed in a talk with the press that there is a total of more than thirteen vacancies of ambassadors which are likely to be filled by next March. The most prominent vacant embassy is Moscow's and the next, perhaps, in view of the tremendous crisis in the Middle East, Jordan's. The delay in appointing our ambassadors in these two places is amazing, if not blatantly inexcusable. Can any country, particularly Pakistan, which is Soviet Union's neighbour and still abundantly embroiled with it over a solution of the Afghan problem, afford not to be diplomatically represented in Moscow at the highest level? This is the time when the greatest amount of concerted action by the two countries may well have provided a third, sobering voice in the U.S.-Iraq wranglings and eased the way for two concerned Asian powers to replace the unwanted interference in the Middle East affairs by the West. In fact, the painful thing that has been noticed in the Gulf crisis is the way some Western powers have deliberately marginalised all important

non-Arab countries, neither allowing them a role in the solution of neighbouring problems nor a say in directly sorting things out with Iraq. Even Jordan, Iraq's sympathetic neighbour can only watch next door events like observing a theatrical performance through a keyhole.

In the context of Pakistan's lackadaisical attitude towards appointing ambassadors, a most unique advertisement ever to appear was published recently in the vernacular press, containing a poignant appeal from Pakistanis working in a Middle East state. They prayed that their employer country be provided with a Pakistani ambassador to look after their problems. Hopefully, the Foreign Office [FO] has been sufficiently shocked to find a man to go there. Delay in ordering highest level staffing of some missions is partly attributable to postings capriciously ordered by one and equally capriciously cancelled by the next government. A very senior FO official for instance, was ordered out of a highest grade embassy over a trifling matter and despatched to a low grade embassy in an African country. A recent shaking change in a number of embassies was ordered by an outgoing Prime Minister. All of which proves that FO officials fare no better than their counterparts in other branches of the civil service. But this should not mean that Pakistan's or our overseas workers' cause should suffer.

Sri Lanka

Wijeratne on Formation of Tamil Home Guard Unit

BK0501113091 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] The National Intelligence Bureau has informed the government that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in the northern province was making arrangements to form a Tamil home guard unit with effect from 1 January.

Disclosing this at the weekly cabinet meeting yesterday, the minister of plantation industries and state minister for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, said that this was being done with a view to involving all Tamil people in the north to join in the Eelam struggle. The minister said that under the new program, every male Tamil citizen between the age group of 20 and 35 years will have to join the home guard units irrespective of their social status. Every recruit will undergo a 15-day training course in weapons conducted by the LTTE. After completing this training, they will be put on a three hour shift every day in their village.

Sincerity of LTTE Cease-Fire Doubted

BK0901121291 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Nineteen violations and a few incidents of a serious nature have been reported despite the cease-fire declared by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. The minister of plantation industries and state minister of defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, announced this

when [he] addressed members of the diplomatic corps in Colombo. He said that about 30 armed LTTE cadres attacked the Karainagar naval base at 1030 a.m. on Monday [7 January]. The Navy repulsed these attacks which lasted for about 15 to 18 minutes. There were similar incidents around the Palali Camp, Elephant Pass and Batticaloa.

Minister Ranjan Wijeratne also told the members of the diplomatic corps that all political parties with exception of two were of the opinion that the LTTE should lay down arms as a prelude to the discussion. The minister expressed doubts about the sincerity of the LTTE's declaration of a cease-fire. The declaration appears to be aimed at getting breathing space and to make renewed preparations for a major attack. Minister Wijeratne informed the gathering that around 300 Muslim home guards have been trained in Mannar. But for some

reasons the Muslims are reluctant to return to their homes in Mannar. The minister pointed out that the LTTE appears to be determined to destroy all Tamil political parties and Tamil MP's [members of parliament]. The minister stressed that the government will nullify these plans of the LTTE.

Answering a question, Mr. Wijeratne said that the government has offered a plan to the ICRC [International Committee of Red Cross] if they so wish to see for themselves what was happening on the ground. The government expected the LTTE to observe the cease-fire and the government will also do its part. He added that certain allegations of violence [as heard] of the cease-fire on the part of the government will be investigated notwithstanding the fact that he felt these allegations were frivolous.